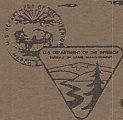
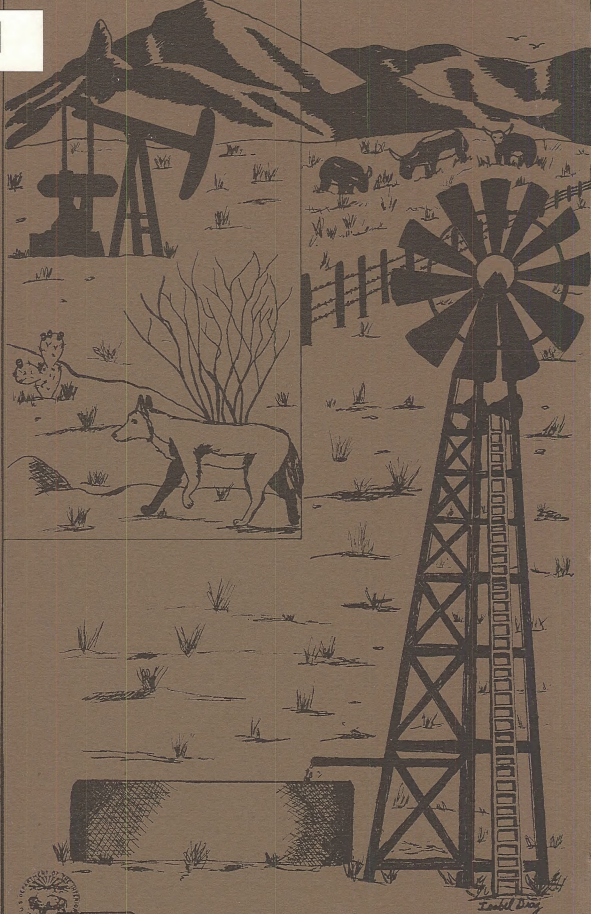




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CRUCES / LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA
FINAL
Management Framework Plan Amendment
Environmental Impact Statement

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SEPTEMBER 1983

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT OFFICE

NOTICE

This is the Final Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (MFP Amendment/EIS) for the proposed Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Energy Minerals and Rangeland Management Programs and proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This Final MFP Amendment/EIS incorporates the draft statement by reference and includes a summary of the draft statement, changes to the draft resulting from public review and comment, a record of public comment on the draft, the responses to those comments, and the Proposed Plan. The Draft MFP Amendment/EIS and this Final MFP Amendment/EIS together constitute the complete Final MFP Amendment/EIS.

A limited number of copies of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS are available from the BLM Las Cruces District Office, P. O. Box 1420, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88004.



88013468

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM Library
D-553A, Building 50
Denver Federal Center
P. O. Box 25047

DISTRICT OFFICE
P. O. Box 1420
Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Reader: Denver, CO 80225-0047

The Final Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (MFP Amendment/EIS) on proposed Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area in southwestern New Mexico has been completed. The Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFP Amendment/EIS analyzes the effects of the proposed Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management programs and four alternatives to the programs. In addition, the possible effects of designating three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are discussed.

This Final MFP Amendment/EIS contains the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative presented in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS published in March 1983. The Proposed Plan is BLM's proposed action. All parts of the Proposed Plan may be protested. Protests should be sent to the Director, Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, within 30 days from the filing date of the Final. The protest should include the following information: (1) the name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest; (2) a statement of the issue or issues being protested; (3) a statement of the part or parts being protested; (4) a copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the records; and (5) a concise statement explaining why the BLM New Mexico State Director's decision is wrong.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the Proposed Plan, excluding any portions under protest, shall become final. Approval shall be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. The approval process and the final plan will be published with the Record of Decision in January 1984.

This Final MFP Amendment/EIS was prepared using the comments received through the review process on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Because the changes suggested through the public review process did not require a major rewrite of the draft and substantial cost savings could be realized by reprinting only the responses to comments and the corrections and modifications, the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS has been incorporated into this Final MFP Amendment/EIS by reference. Thus, this document must be used in conjunction with the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, which was distributed to the public in March 1983. A limited number of copies of the Draft are available from the BLM, Las Cruces District Office, P. O. Box 1420, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88004.

Many thanks to all those individuals and organizations who provided suggestions and comments on the Draft. Your help has been invaluable in the preparation of a Final MFP Amendment/EIS which will assist us in more efficiently and effectively managing the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel C. B. Rath
Daniel C. B. Rathbun
District Manager

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Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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FINAL

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN AMENDMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ON

ENERGY MINERALS LEASING AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

IN THE LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA

Abstract: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to reconsider constraints on energy minerals leasing imposed by existing decisions for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area (Dona Ana, Luna, Hidalgo, and Grant Counties), to implement a rangeland management program for the 3-County Area (Luna, Hidalgo, and Grant Counties) of the Las Cruces District in southwestern New Mexico, and to consider the designation of three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Gila Lower Box Riparian Area, Gila Middle Box Wildlife Area, and the Organ Mountains Scenic Area). The Energy Minerals issue involves the identification and analysis of areas where potential resource conflicts would be significant enough to either preclude or restrict oil and gas or geothermal leasing and associated operations. The Rangeland Management issue involves the amount of vegetation allocated to grazing and other uses, the methods of grazing management, support facilities, monitoring and evaluation, and maintenance of rangeland developments. Under each issue, general implementation is outlined and standard operating procedures are discussed. A Proposed Plan for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area is included in the Final MFP Amendment/EIS. The Plan was developed following a 90-day review of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, which describes and analyzes a Proposed Action and four alternatives.

Type of Action: (x) Administrative () Legislative

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Comments Have Been Requested From: See Consultation and Coordination

Date Filed With EPA: Draft: March 8, 1983
Final: SEP 14 1983

Recommended:

Approved:


District Manager
Las Cruces District Office

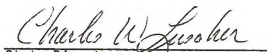

State Director
New Mexico



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TECHNICAL REPORTS

(Technical Reports are available for review at the Las Cruces District Office.)

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- II Energy Minerals
 - 1. Environmental Review Process for Leasing and Exploration
 - 2. Sources for Standard Operating Procedures
 - 3. Legal Descriptions of Areas with Special Stipulations
 - 4. Calculations by Alternative for NOL Acreages and Acres to be Leased with Special Stipulations
- III ACEC Management Plans
 - 1. Gila Lower Box Riparian Area
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- IV Memorandum of Understanding
 - 1. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and BLM
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- V Physical Setting
 - 1. General Locations of Weather Stations
- VI Vegetation
 - 1. Grazing Management Considerations for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area and Utilization Criteria for Important Forage Species
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 - 3. USDA Compilation of Registered Uses of Herbicides
 - 4. The Toxicity of the Chemical Herbicides 2,4,5-T to Human Health
- VII Soils
- VIII Livestock Grazing
 - 1. Present and Proposed Allocations by Land Ownership
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- IX Water Resources
 - 1. Water Quality of Selected Streams in the LCLRA
 - 2. Water Quality of the Gila River Near Red Rock, New Mexico
 - 3. Water Quality of Selected Wells in the LCLRA
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 - 1. Detailed Methodology for Developing the Ranch Budgets for Each Ranch Size Category
 - 2. Detailed Methodology for Las Cruces/Lordsburg Input-Output Model
 - 3. Detailed Methodology for Linear Analysis

**SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT
MFP AMENDMENT / EIS**



SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MFP AMENDMENT/EIS

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District proposes to resolve resource conflicts involving energy minerals leasing on 3.8 million acres of BLM administered subsurface estate and to implement a rangeland management program on 1,624,090 acres of public land within the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area (see Map 1-1). In addition, three areas of critical environmental concern are proposed for designation. For the Energy Minerals issue, the entire Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area is under consideration. Short-term impacts are those which occur from 1980 to 1994. Long-term impacts are those which occur between 1980 and 2010. For the Rangeland Management issue, the area for consideration will be Hidalgo, Grant, and Luna Counties in New Mexico and a small portion of Cochise County in Arizona. For the Rangeland Management issue, short-term impacts are those which would occur within 9 years after implementation. Long-term impacts are those that would still exist by the year 2010. A Proposed Action and four alternatives have been developed to arrive at an acceptable amendment to existing plans for the Resource Area.

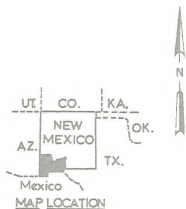
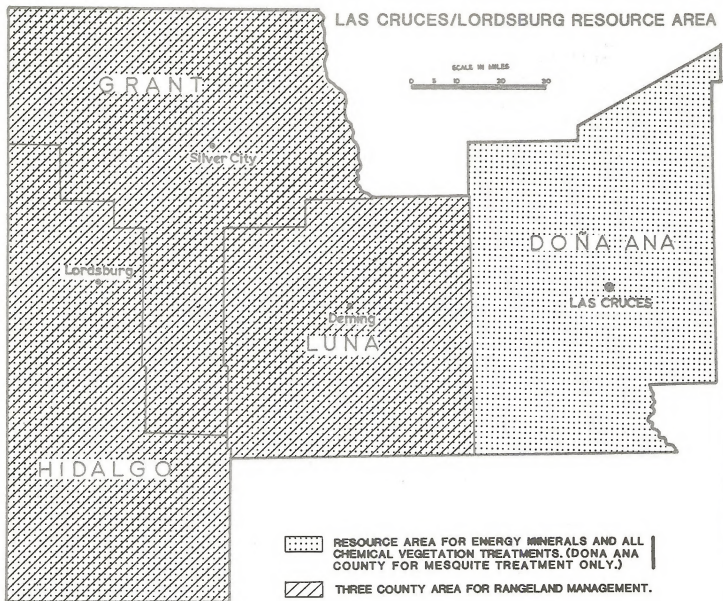
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action (PA)

The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative. The PA includes the following major components.

- A total of 3,131,826 acres would be open to energy minerals leasing with no special stipulations; 675,979 acres would be open with special stipulations; and 9,956 acres would not be open to leasing (NOL).
- Surface disturbing activities would occur on 14,631 acres in the short-term and 32,639 acres in the long-term as a result of oil and gas activities.
- It has been assumed that there would be one producing oil and gas well, southwest of the Big Hatchet Mountains in southwestern Hidalgo County.
- Drilling of five shallow temperature gradient holes per year in the short-term and three deep wells with related facilities in the long-term are anticipated on the East Mesa in Dona Ana County and other areas with favorable geothermal potential.
- It has been assumed that there would be one direct utilization of geothermal energy for greenhouse use east of Las Cruces in Dona Ana County in the long-term.
- The initial livestock forage allocation would be mutually agreed upon between the permittees and BLM and could be up to preference

LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA



MAP 1-1

GENERAL LOCATION MAP

LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA

(263,930 animal unit months [AUMs]). If monitoring studies show a need for adjustments in livestock numbers, decisions would be issued stating the adjustments. Before adverse decisions are made, each adversely affected operator will be contacted and the "Section 8" Consultation Policy (see Appendix A) will be followed.

-Under the worst case situation in the short-term, a lower level of grazing use on Category I allotments of 213,286 AUMs for livestock would be analyzed. The initial allocation for big game would be 1,917 AUMs. Analysis deals exclusively with AUMs on public land.

-In the long-term, 257,402 AUMs of forage would be available for livestock and 3,498 AUMs for big game.

-Three levels of grazing management would be implemented. On 164 allotments, current satisfactory condition would be maintained (Category M); 17 allotments would be managed in a custodial manner while protecting existing resources (Category C); and management and rangeland improvement efforts would be concentrated on 71 allotments that have potential for improvement and where resource conflicts exist (Category I). Ten allotments are split among the three categories.

-Activity plans would be prepared to resolve conflicts on allotments with riparian areas, proposed areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), crucial deer, pronghorn, ibex, and bighorn sheep habitat as well as areas where threatened or endangered plant or animal species are known to occur.

-Proposed rangeland developments include construction of 25 dirt tanks, 67 miles of pipeline, 47 drinking troughs, drilling or equipping 11 wells, 1 cattleguard, 17 storage tanks, 68 erosion dikes, 55 miles of fence, and 4 umbrella catchments. Chemical vegetation treatments would be implemented on 9,609 acres of mesquite and 42,279 acres of creosote.

-Category I allotments would be monitored to determine the livestock grazing capacity and the effectiveness of grazing treatments, vegetation treatments, and rangeland developments.

-Priority has been given to the identification, proposed designation, protection, and special management proposals for three ACECs: the Gila River Lower Box Riparian Area, the Gila River Middle Box Wildlife Area, and the Organ Mountains Scenic Area.

No Action (NA) Alternative

The NA Alternative includes the following major components.

-Currently, 3,144,624 acres are open to energy minerals leasing with no special stipulations; 564,677 acres are open with special stipulations; and 108,460 acres are designated NOL.

- Existing forage allocations would be maintained at the present preference of 263,930 AUMs for livestock and 2,154 AUMs for wildlife.
- Fifteen allotments with existing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) would be managed intensively and monitored.
- No new Bureau initiated rangeland developments or vegetation treatments would be implemented in direct support of the grazing program. Range Betterment Funds presently used for rangeland developments would continue to be expended.

Maximization (MAX) of Energy Minerals Leasing and Livestock Forage Production Alternative

The MAX Alternative includes the following major components.

- A total of 3,817,761 acres of Federal mineral estate would be open to energy minerals leasing with no special restrictions or stipulations.
- An intensive program of rangeland management designed to achieve maximum forage production for livestock would be initiated. Categorization of allotments would be the same as the PA.
- Chemical vegetation treatments would be implemented on 412,951 acres of mesquite and 462,816 acres of creosote. Mechanical vegetation treatments on 5,230 acres of creosote, mixed desert shrub, and tarbush also would be implemented.
- Proposed rangeland developments include construction of 49 dirt tanks, 224 miles of pipeline, 145 drinking troughs, drilling and equipping 46 wells, 4 cattleguards, 48 storage tanks, 94 erosion dikes, and 4 umbrella catchments.
- Initial stocking rates and needed adjustments would be the same as under the PA.
- Under the worst case situation in the short-term, a lower level of grazing use on Category I allotments of 213,286 AUMs for livestock would be analyzed. An initial allocation of 1,917 AUMs for big game also would be analyzed.
- In the long-term, 297,765 AUMs of forage would be available for livestock and 3,512 AUMs for big game.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative

The EORV Alternative includes the following major components.

- A total of 3,119,682 acres would be open to energy minerals leasing with no special restrictions or stipulations; 680,914 acres would be open with special stipulations; and 17,165 acres would be NOL.

- Initial stocking rates and needed adjustments would be the same as under the PA.
- Under the worst case situation in the short-term, livestock grazing would be reduced 50 percent from the PA on 449,614 acres of rangeland in poor ecological condition, 25 percent on 828,980 acres in fair ecological condition and eliminated on 12,921 acres of riparian habitat in poor or fair ecological condition or watersheds in critical or severe erosion classes. Forage allocations under the worst case situation would be 155,319 AUMs for livestock. Initial allocations for big game would be 1,917 AUMs.
- In the long-term, 228,530 AUMs of forage would be available for livestock and 3,498 AUMs for big game.
- Chemical vegetation treatments would be implemented as described under the PA.
- Rangeland developments would be constructed as under the PA with the addition of 7.75 miles of fence to protect riparian habitat and watersheds in critical or severe erosion condition classes.

Elimination of Livestock Grazing (ELG) Alternative

The ELG Alternative includes the following major components.

- Livestock grazing would be eliminated on 1,624,090 acres of public land and 263,930 AUMs of grazing preference would be cancelled.
- No new grazing systems would be implemented and existing AMPs would be cancelled.
- No rangeland developments and vegetation treatments would be implemented or maintained unless needed for other BLM activities, such as wildlife and watershed. Rangeland developments that serve no useful purpose would be removed from public land.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND*ALTERNATIVES

Energy Minerals

Proposed Action (PA)

The following impacts would occur under the PA.

- In the short- and long-term, impacts to vegetation, livestock grazing, the existing ACEC, wilderness, and other land uses would be minimal or nonexistent.
- Soils would be disturbed on an estimated 32,480 acres in the long-term as a result of seismic lines.
- In the short- and long-term, some wildlife habitat destruction would occur. The most significant impacts would occur in the grass flat,

grass rolling upland, and pseudoriparian Standard Habitat Sites (SHS's), some of which are important habitats for threatened or endangered wildlife species.

- Human disturbance of big game and some threatened or endangered wildlife species would occur.
- Increased poaching of big game would be possible.
- There would be an irretrievable loss of oil and gas and geothermal resources as a result of production.
- Site-specific increases in sediment yield would occur and would involve stockponds and reservoirs in ephemeral drainages directly downstream from the area disturbed. The greatest impact would be from established production fields.
- Air quality would be affected on a broad scale by oil and gas and geothermal industries during periods of exploration. Pollution would become much more concentrated during development stages.
- Air quality could be affected if accidents occur during the development and production phases.
- In the short-term, 3,033 cultural sites could be located and in the long-term, 6,766 cultural sites as a result of new seismograph lines.
- An estimated 20,984 cultural sites would be protected from potential surface disturbance as a result of special stipulations protecting other values.
- Short-term visual contrasts in the landscape would be caused by surface disturbance and facilities associated with energy minerals activities.
- Four areas of special interest to recreationists would be protected by special stipulations: Kilbourne Hole National Natural Landmark (NNL), Franklin Mountains (South), Gila River Lower Box Riparian ACEC (proposed), and the West Potrillos Primitive Area.
- The dispersed recreation in the Franklin Mountains (North) could be impacted from drilling exploration activities.
- Material well-being would increase for those individuals who have the chance of employment.
- Occupational roles and identity associated with oil field activities would be increased.
- In the short-term, an increase in total direct income of \$9.4 million (3 percent of total direct income) and an increase of approximately 790 jobs (2.5 percent of total employment) in the Resource Area economy would occur.

-In the long-term, an increase in total direct income of approximately \$41 million (13 percent of total direct income) would occur. Total employment would increase by approximately 3,390 jobs (10 percent of total employment).

No Action (NA) Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the NA Alternative.

-Impacts to vegetation, geology and mineral resources, livestock grazing, water resources, the existing ACEC, wilderness, and other land uses would be minimal or nonexistent. Impacts to soils, air quality, cultural resources, visual resources, and social conditions are the same as those discussed under the PA.

-Continued energy minerals activities could cause raptor nest failure in the Florida Mountains and Hadley Draw.

-Two areas of special interest to recreationists, the Gila River Valley and the West Potrillos Primitive Area, would be protected from the impacts of exploration drilling activities.

-No special protection would be provided for special recreation values in the Kilbourne Hole NNL, Franklin Mountains (South) and Franklin Mountains (North).

-Annual rental fees of \$108,460 would be lost from areas designated as NOL. Operational costs in areas with special stipulations would increase.

-Annual rental fees of \$564,677 would be generated from areas leased with stipulations.

Maximization (MAX) of Energy Minerals Leasing Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the MAX Alternative.

-Impacts to vegetation, livestock grazing, the existing ACEC, and wilderness would be minimal to nonexistent. Impacts to soils, air quality, and visual resources are the same as those discussed under the PA.

-Areas which have important wildlife values would be disturbed. These areas include the Aden Lava Flow, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Redrock Game Farm, and several mountain ranges which have nesting raptors, bighorn sheep, and other big game species.

-Additional geologic information on areas outside of high potential sites would be gained.

-Sediment yields would increase slightly and there would be a risk of spills and contamination of perennial waters in areas without

special stipulations such as the Gila River Valley and several wetland/riparian areas.

- Physical and visual impacts near the nationally significant Fort Cummings could occur as a result of seismic prospecting.
- Improved access could cause increased vandalism on Fort Cummings, Oldtown, the Massacre Peak Petroglyph Site, and segments of the Butterfield Trail.
- Exploration and drilling activities could cause irreversible degradation of the natural values and aesthetics of the Kilbourne Hole NNL, Franklin Mountains (North) and (South), Gila Lower Box, and the West Potrillo Primitive Area.
- Opening 3,597 acres in the Organ Mountains to mineral entry would also open the Baylor Recreation Area and the Organ Mountains Recreation Area to locatable mineral entry; increased hardrock mining impacts could result.
- Irretrievable losses in association with ecological plots; major short-term disruption of existing uses in association with recreational areas and airports; and minor short-term disruption in association with public purposes such as sanitary landfills would occur as a result of energy minerals activities.
- Negative public attitudes would result from the lifting of special stipulations on Wilderness Study Areas, ecological plots, and some special designation areas, recreation and public purpose areas, and other areas.
- An annual rental fee of \$3,817,761 would be generated from leasing all available acreage in the Resource Area.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the EORV Alternative.

- Impacts to vegetation, geology and mineral resources, livestock grazing, the existing ACEC, and wilderness would be minimal or nonexistent. Impacts to soils, air quality, and visual resources would be the same as those described under the PA.
- The significant wildlife values in the Cooke's Range, Cowboy Spring, Florida Mountains, Gila River riparian areas, and the NMDGF Redrock Game Farm would be protected by special stipulations.
- Special stipulations along the Gila River and on riparian/wetland areas would serve to maintain the hydrologic functions of riparian areas and limit the risk of surface water contamination.
- Fort Cummings, the Massacre Peak Petroglyph Site, Pony Hills, Oldtown, and portions of the Butterfield Trail would be protected by special stipulations.

-A number of other areas totaling 683,635 acres that could contain cultural resources have either a NOL designation or no surface occupancy stipulation. These areas have a potential cultural site density of 21,364.

-Five areas of special interest to recreationists would be protected from the impacts of exploration drilling activities by the use of special stipulations. These areas include Kilbourne Hole NNL, Franklin Mountains (South) and (North), Gila River Lower Box Riparian ACEC (proposed), and the West Potrillo Primitive Area.

-Applying special stipulations to protect environmental values would provide positive public attitudes.

■ -Approximately \$17,165 would be lost in annual rental fees as a result of areas designated NOL.

Rangeland Management

Proposed Action (PA)

The following impacts would occur under the PA.

-Impacts to geology and mineral resources, air quality, the existing ACEC, visual resources, wilderness, other land uses, and social conditions would be minimal or nonexistent.

-Vegetation would be disturbed or destroyed on 344 acres in the short-term and 71 acres in the long-term from construction of rangeland developments.

-Acreage in excellent, good, and fair ecological condition and good and fair forage value classes would increase in the long-term. Acreage in poor ecological condition and poor forage value class would decrease in the long-term. Acreage changes would be a result of proposed vegetation treatments, grazing management treatments and rangeland developments.

-Desirable and intermediate forage species production would increase 3 to 4 times on chemically treated areas.

-Vegetative ground cover would increase in the long-term.

-Soils would be disturbed on 344 acres in the short-term from construction of rangeland developments. In the long-term, 71 acres of soils would be removed from production of vegetation.

-Wind erosion on sprayed areas would decrease as much as 15 times as on unsprayed areas in the long-term.

-Bird and reptile diversities would increase, but rodent diversities and biomass would decrease.

-Game birds would have a better food source.

- The riparian SHS would improve. More forage and better quality habitat would be available for most big game, except javelina. Threatened or endangered wildlife species would benefit from improvement of the riparian SHS.
- Allotments in Category I cover 69 percent of the 3-County Area. Under the worst case analysis, these allotments would be reduced 22 percent below preference in the short-term. These AUMs would be held in suspended preference.
- There would be an increase of 4,447 AUMs on eight allotments, as a result of proposed vegetation treatments on 51,888 acres of public land.
- In the long-term, there would be an increase in AUMs of 2.5 percent above preference on Category I allotments as a result of proposed vegetation treatments, grazing management treatments, and rangeland developments.
- Allotments in Category M cover 27 percent of the public land in the 3-County Area and Category C allotments cover 4 percent. The allotments would maintain their present 5-year average licensed use of 75,871 AUMs in the short- and long-term. These allotments could be grazed to their preference of 87,132 AUMs.
- Livestock AUM reductions for allotments in all categories would be 19 percent below preference in the short-term and 2.6 percent below preference in the long-term.
- Surface runoff would decrease 0 to 18 percent depending on soil and vegetation types, ground cover, slope, and intensity of storms within the watershed.
- Water consumption by livestock and big game would increase by 12 percent in the long-term.
- Trampling damage of cultural resources by livestock would decrease slightly in the short- and long-term due to reduction of livestock from the current preference.
- In the short-term, new data could be added on 120 cultural sites as a result of Class III inventories on 3,780 acres disturbed by construction of rangeland developments.
- |-Trampling damage to cultural resources by livestock would decrease slightly in fenced riparian areas.
- Conflicts between recreationists and livestock would be reduced in the Guadalupe Canyon Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) as a result of management through activity plans.
- Deer hunting visitor hours would increase by approximately 58,005 in the long-term.

-Total receipts for all ranch operations would be reduced as a result of the 9 percent decrease in AUMs from the 5-year average.

-In the short-term, direct income would be reduced less than 1 percent in the Resource Area economy. The range livestock industry would experience a 4 percent decrease in employment and direct income.

-Total receipts would increase by \$505,000 in the long-term for all operations.

-Direct income and employment would increase in the long-term for the Resource Area economy by less than 1 percent. The range livestock industry would experience a 4.9 percent increase in employment opportunities and a 5 percent increase in direct income.

No Action (NA) Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the NA Alternative.

-Impacts to soils, geology and mineral resources, water resources, air quality, the existing ACEC, cultural resources, visual resources, recreation, wilderness, other land uses, and social and economic conditions would be minimal or nonexistent.

-Acreage in poor ecological condition and poor forage value class would increase in the long-term. Acreage in good and fair ecological condition and good and fair forage value classes would decrease in the long-term. There would not be any acres in excellent ecological condition by the year 2010. Acreage changes would be a result of the lack of vegetation treatments, grazing management treatments, and rangeland developments.

-Vegetative ground cover would increase in the long-term because of the increased number of annual species replacing perennial species.

-The riparian SHS would continue to deteriorate as a result of the decline in ecological condition.

-Forage for optimum big game numbers would not be available. Habitat for most endangered wildlife species would decline.

-Livestock grazing use would decrease in the long-term due to increased deterioration of rangeland condition, trend, and perennial forage production. Deterioration would be gradual; however, impacts from reduced livestock numbers could eventually become significant.

-Vegetation patterns would continue to change to brush dominated areas without some vegetation treatment. Desirable perennial forage would have a small chance for recovery.

Maximization (MAX) of Livestock Forage Production Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the MAX Alternative.

- Impacts to geology and mineral resources, air quality, visual resources, the existing ACEC, wilderness, and other land uses would be minimal or nonexistent.
- Vegetation would be disturbed or destroyed on 868 acres in the short-term and 172 acres in the long-term as a result of construction of rangeland developments.
- Acreage in excellent and good ecological condition and good forage value class would increase in the long-term. Acreage in fair and poor ecological condition and fair and poor forage value classes would decrease in the long-term. Acreage changes would be a result of proposed vegetation treatments, rangeland developments, and grazing management treatments.
- Desirable and intermediate forage species would increase 3 to 4 times on chemically treated areas and at least 4 times on mechanically treated and reseeded areas.
- Vegetative ground cover would increase in the long-term.
- Soil loss would increase in the short-term on areas treated for creosote.
- Wind erosion susceptibility would increase in the short-term as a result of chemical treatment of mesquite. Soil movement would decrease in the long-term due to the increased ground cover on the areas treated.
- In the short-term, soil erosion by wind and water would increase on mechanically treated areas due to the removal of protective vegetative cover. After vegetation becomes re-established following reseeding, soil erosion by wind and water would decrease.
- Habitat for pronghorn and mule deer would be enhanced by vegetation treatments. Preferred javelina forage would decrease after treatments. Treatments would be beneficial for endangered animal species associated with grasslands.
- Water for all wildlife would be increased by construction of proposed drinking troughs and dirt tanks. These are especially important for deer.
- An increase of 100,945 AUMs would occur on 116 allotments as a result of vegetation treatments on 880,997 acres in the long-term.
- Under the worst case situation, livestock grazing would be reduced to the same level as the PA in the short-term.

- In the long-term, there would be an increase in AUMs of 13 percent above preference.
- Runoff volume would increase an average of 9 percent on chemically treated areas for 2 to 3 years following vegetation treatment.
- In the long-term, runoff volume would decrease an average of 18 percent on chemically treated areas and 13 percent on mechanically treated areas.
- On-site utilization of water would be improved in the long-term.
- Water consumption by livestock and big game would increase 24 percent in the long-term.
- In the long-term, 496 cultural sites could be located as a result of rangeland developments and mechanical vegetation treatments. New data also would be added through Class III inventories for construction of rangeland developments.
- In the short-term, off-road vehicle (ORV) use would be restricted on 32 percent of the public land in Dona Ana County where chemical vegetation treatment is proposed.
- Deer hunting visitor hours would increase by approximately 58,005 in the long-term.
- The social well-being of ranchers and ranch hands would be enhanced in the long-term.
- Total receipts for all ranch operations would be reduced by \$410,000. The Resource Area economy would experience a reduction of less than 1 percent in direct income and employment opportunities. The range livestock industry would experience a 4 percent decrease in employment and direct income.
- Total receipts for all operations would increase by approximately \$1.5 million in the long-term. The Resource Area economy would experience an increase in direct income and employment of less than 1 percent. The range livestock industry would experience a 15 percent increase in employment opportunities and a 15 percent increase in direct income.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the EORV Alternative.

- Impacts to geology and mineral resources, air quality, visual resources, the existing ACEC, and other land uses would be minimal or nonexistent.
- Under the worst case situation, short-term consumption of forage would be reduced approximately 30 percent from the PA.

- Vegetation would improve on areas eliminated from livestock grazing for watersheds in critical or severe erosion condition classes or riparian habitat. Ground cover would increase in the long-term.
- Vegetation would be disturbed or destroyed on 352 acres in the short-term and 72 acres in the long-term by construction of rangeland developments.
- Acreage in excellent, good, and fair ecological condition and good forage value class would increase in the long-term. Acreage in poor ecological condition and fair and poor forage value classes would decrease in the long-term. Acreage changes would be a result of proposed vegetation treatments, grazing management treatments, and rangeland developments.
- Vegetative ground cover would increase in the long-term.
- Sediment yields would decrease on 12,501 acres where livestock grazing is eliminated on the breaks of the Gila River.
- Plant vigor, stand structure, and ground cover would improve because of improvement in the riparian SHS. More forage would be available for wildlife and improved stand structure would provide habitat for more species. Fisheries habitat would improve due to less sediment runoff and stream temperatures moderated by overhanging vegetation.
- Sufficient forage would be available for big game populations to reach optimum populations.
- Under the worst case situation, livestock grazing use would be reduced 41 percent below preference in the short-term. In the long-term, there would be a 13.5 percent decrease in AUMs below preference.
- There would be a loss of some grazing privileges on public land in all or parts of nine grazing allotments.
- Surface runoff volume would decrease by 8 percent in the long-term on a variety of range sites where vegetative cover increases a minimum of 5 percent.
- On-site utilization of water would improve in the long-term.
- Hydrologic functions of wetland areas would improve as a result of elimination of livestock grazing on riparian habitat.
- There would be a slight decrease in runoff and improved infiltration rates in the long-term as a result of elimination of livestock grazing on watersheds in critical or severe erosion classes. As a result of reduced runoff, there would be a decrease in the amount of sediment and dissolved solids transported to the Gila River. Water consumption by livestock and big game would increase by 1 percent in the long-term.

- The fencing of riparian areas and watersheds in severe or critical erosion classes would protect 404 cultural sites from trampling damage by livestock.
- Deer hunting visitor hours would increase by 58,005 in the long-term.
- The quality of water based recreation opportunities along the Gila River would be enhanced as a result of improvements in both riparian vegetation and watershed.
- Wilderness values would be enhanced in the Gila Lower Box Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as a result of improved recreation opportunities.
- In the long-term, the social status of the ranchers would be enhanced by increased opportunities for goods, services, and amenities. Ranching as a lifestyle would undergo major changes in the short-term but would be enhanced in the long-term.
- Total direct income would decrease by approximately \$737,000 in the short-term and \$19,484 in the long-term for the Resource Area economy.
- Total employment would decrease by 77 jobs in the short-term and 2 jobs in the long-term.
- Total receipts for all operations would decrease by \$1.5 million in the short-term and by \$37,000 in the long-term.

Elimination of Livestock Grazing (ELG) Alternative

The following impacts would occur under the ELG Alternative.

- Impacts to geology and mineral resources, air quality, visual resources, the existing ACEC, and other land uses would be minimal or nonexistent.
- Acreage in excellent and good ecological condition and good forage value class would increase in the long-term. Acreage in fair and poor ecological condition and fair and poor forage value classes would decrease in the long-term.
- Vegetative ground cover would increase in the long-term.
- Sediment yields would decrease where ground cover is improved.
- All forage would be available for wildlife, however, other factors might prevent big game from reaching optimum numbers.
- Habitat improvement would benefit threatened or endangered animal species.

- Many livestock operators would be forced to liquidate, disperse their livestock, or obtain other lands for grazing to remain in business.
- Surface runoff volume would decrease an average of 8 percent on range sites where vegetative cover increases a minimum of 5 percent.
- Dissolved solids and suspended sediments that would otherwise be transported by runoff water would decrease.
- Surface water quality would improve because of decreased stream bank erosion and reduced fecal coliform count.
- Overland flow velocities and quantities would be reduced and peak discharge would be lower. On-site utilization of water would increase through improvement of ungrazed areas and decreased runoff.
- Water consumption by livestock of 275 acre-feet per year would be eliminated. Wildlife would continue to consume 3 acre-feet per year.
- The churning of cultural sites and breakage of artifacts caused by livestock trampling would be eliminated on public land.
- Deer hunting opportunities would increase by 73,750 visitor hours.
- In the long-term, the natural and scenic qualities of WSAs would be enhanced through improved vigor of plant communities and removal of rangeland developments.
- Vehicle use would be reduced on existing access routes which would enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.
- There would be major changes in the size and distribution of the ranching population, however, there would be no major changes in the population of the Resource Area.
- The social well-being of livestock operators would be lowered and some would lose their role and identity as "rancher". Family stability would be disrupted, psychological well-being would be lowered, and the infrastructure would have increasing demands.
- There would be a serious disruption of the network of social relationships. The ranching lifestyle would be threatened. The psychological well-being would be diminished and, for many, a part of their heritage would be lost.
- Direct income and employment opportunities would decrease in the Resource Area economy by less than 1 percent.
- The range livestock industry would experience a decrease of 44 percent in direct income and employment opportunities. Total receipts for all operations would decrease by approximately \$4.3 million.

Proposed Special Designation Areas

Proposed Action (PA)

Gila River Lower Box Riparian ACEC

The following impacts would occur under the PA.

- |-Impacts to soils, geology and mineral resources, air quality, livestock grazing, the existing ACEC, other land uses, and social and economic conditions would be minimal or nonexistent.
- |-Bottomland species would re-establish themselves by restriction of livestock use on the small plots in the long-term.
- |-Ground cover would improve within the small plots.
- |-Vegetation and water resources would have long-term protection and enhancement because of the restrictions on surface disturbing and mechanized activities.
- |-Substantial habitat improvement would occur for more than 300 terrestrial species and 12 fish species that can be found in the Gila River Lower Box. Seven of the terrestrial species and two of the fish species are on either the Federal or state endangered list.
- |-Raptors and all wildlife would be protected from disturbance.
- |-Poaching and accidental wildlife deaths would be minimized.
- |-The Gila Lower Box stream channel would be stabilized thus reducing channel erosion and lowering sediment yield downstream.
- |-The hydrologic functions of surface water storage and groundwater recharge would be enhanced. Flood velocities would be reduced through improved riparian vegetation.
- |-The large Mogollon style petroglyph panels would be protected. The likelihood of vandalism to the petroglyph panels would be reduced.
- |-The natural and scenic values of the Gila Lower Box would be enhanced through redistribution of livestock and improved riparian vegetation.
- |-Visual resources would be protected from the short-term impacts of energy minerals activities.
- |-Bird watching opportunities would be improved and water based recreation opportunities would be enhanced.
- |-Primitive recreation opportunities would be enhanced and protected.
- |-The wild character of the Gila Lower Box WSA would be retained as long as the area is administratively protected as an ACEC.

Gila River Middle Box Wildlife ACEC

The following impacts would occur under the PA.

- Impacts to vegetation, soils, geology and mineral resources, livestock grazing, air quality, cultural resources, visual resources, the existing ACEC, wilderness, other land uses, and social and economic conditions would be minimal or nonexistent.
- There would be a beneficial impact for the loach minnow and spikedace, both state endangered and Federal candidate species.
- Raptors and bats would be protected from harassment.
- Downstream riparian vegetation, including that of the Gila River Lower Box, would be sustained and the stream flow in the Gila Middle Box would be maintained.
- Water quality would be maintained and watershed conditions would improve in the long-term. This would indirectly help preserve the quality of water based recreation opportunities in the Middle Box.

Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC

The following impacts would occur under the PA.

- Impacts to soils, livestock grazing, water resources, air quality, cultural resources, the existing ACEC, other land uses, and social and economic conditions would be minimal or nonexistent.
- Existing water resources and vegetation would be protected and enhanced because of restrictions on surface disturbing and mechanized activities.
- Habitat for the resident mule deer herd and for all non-game species would be protected.
- Locatable and saleable minerals would be unavailable within the area withdrawn from mineral entry.
- Visual resources would be protected.
- Natural and scenic values would be protected.
- Dispersed recreation opportunities would be protected.
- Administrative protection would be provided for most of the Organ Mountains WSA. The portion of the WSA within the ACEC would retain its wild character as long as the area is administratively protected.

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS

The following table shows the comparison of the impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives.

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES ENERGY MINERALS

Resource	Existing	Proposed Action		No Action Alternative		Maximization of Energy Minerals Leasing Alternative		Enhancement of Other Resource Values Alternative	
		Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term
PHYSICAL SETTING	stable	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
VEGETATION									
Ground Cover	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Plant Species	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
SOILS									
Sediment Yield	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
WILDLIFE									
Habitat	NC	NS	NS	NS	NS	S1	S1	S1	S1
Direct Disturbance/Animals	NC	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
LIVESTOCK GRAZING									
Grazing Use (AUMs)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
WATER RESOURCES									
Water Depletion (acre-feet)	6	45	120	45	120	45	120	45	120
Riparian/Floodplain Areas	stable	+	+	NC	NC	-	-	+	+
Water Quality	stable	+	+	NC	NC	-	-	+	+
AIR QUALITY	stable	local dust increase	NS	NC	NS	local dust increase	NS	NS	dust decrease
CULTURAL RESOURCES									
Sites Located (sites per 3 miles seismic line)	512	3,033	6,766	NC	NC	3,033	6,766	3,033	6,766
VISUAL RESOURCES	stable	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-
RECREATION	stable	NS	NS	NS	NS	-	-	NS	NS
ACECs (naturalness)	NC	NC	NC	NS	NS	NS	NS	NC	NC
WILDERNESS	stable	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS-
SOCIAL CONDITIONS		slow growth							
Demography			NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Social Well Being		stable	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Lifestyles/Values		stable	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Attitudes, Concerns, Issues		mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (dollars)									
Annual Geophysical Exploration									
Regional Income	275,700,428	284,968,460	296,375,296	275,700,428	275,700,428	284,968,460	296,375,296	284,968,460	296,375,296
Change	0	9,268,032	20,674,868	0	0	9,268,032	20,674,868	9,268,032	20,674,868
Regional Employment	30,526	31,305	32,261	30,526	30,526	31,305	32,261	31,305	32,261
Change	0	779	1,735	0	0	779	1,735	779	1,735
Annual Geothermal Exploration									
Regional Income	275,700,428	275,872,868	277,869,096	275,700,428	275,700,428	275,872,868	277,869,096	275,872,868	277,869,096
Change	0	172,440	2,168,668	0	0	172,440	2,168,668	172,440	2,168,668
Regional Employment	30,526	30,537	30,679	30,526	30,526	30,537	30,679	30,537	30,679
Change	0	11	153	0	0	11	153	11	153

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

ENERGY MINERALS (continued)

Resource	Existing	Proposed Action		No Action Alternative		Maximization of Energy Minerals Leasing Alternative		Enhancement of Other Resource Values Alternative	
		Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (continued)									
One Producing Oil and Gas Well ^{1/2}									
Regional Income	275,700,428	275,700,428	293,530,016	275,700,428	275,700,428	275,700,428	293,530,016	275,700,428	293,530,016
Change	0	0	17,829,588	0	0	0	17,829,588	0	17,829,588
Regional Employment	30,526	30,526	32,022	30,526	30,526	30,526	32,022	30,526	32,022
Change	0	0	1,496	0	0	0	1,496	0	1,496
Geophysical and Geothermal Exploration and One Producing Oil and Gas Well ^{1/2}									
Regional Income	275,700,428	285,140,920	316,385,916	275,700,428	275,700,428	285,140,920	316,385,916	285,140,920	316,385,916
Change	0	9,440,492	40,685,488	0	0	9,440,492	40,685,488	9,440,492	40,685,488
Regional Employment	30,526	31,317	33,912	30,526	30,526	31,317	33,912	31,317	33,912
Change	0	791	3,386	0	0	791	3,386	791	3,386

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Resource	Existing	Proposed Action		No Action Alternative		Maximization of Livestock Forage Production Alternative		Enhancement of Other Resource Values Alternative		Elimination of Livestock Grazing Alternative	
		Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term
GRAZING USE (AUMs)	228,200 ^{d/}	213,286 ^{b/}	257,402	263,930 ^{c/}	263,930 ^{c/}	213,286 ^{b/}	297,765	155,319 ^{b/}	228,530	0	0
PHYSICAL SETTING	stable	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
VEGETATION											
Ecological Condition (acres)											
Excellent	1,893	NS	18,822	NS	0	NS	18,822	NS	27,518	NS	36,213
Good	91,082	NS	197,712	NS	74,371	NS	350,939	NS	318,457	NS	439,201
Fair	825,651	NS	929,142	NS	672,212	NS	811,971	NS	867,112	NS	805,085
Poor	512,876	NS	285,826	NS	684,919	NS	249,770	NS	218,415	NS	151,003
Forage Value (acres)											
Good	223,460	NS	347,019	NS	214,186	NS	474,015	NS	474,433	NS	585,439
Fair	512,381	NS	581,155	NS	346,346	NS	490,215	NS	494,107	NS	415,749
Poor	695,661	NS	503,328	NS	870,970	NS	467,272	NS	462,962	NS	430,314
Ground Cover (percent)	14	NS	16	NS	15	NS	16	NS	17	NS	18
Threatened or Endangered (Y/E) Plant Species	NC	NS	NS	NC	NC	- d/	- d/	+	+	+	+
SOILS											
Sediment Yield (acre ft/sq mi/yr)	NC	NC	NS	NC	NC	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
WILDLIFE											
AUMs Allocated ^{f/}	2,154	1,917	3,498	2,154	2,154	1,917	3,512	1,917	3,498	e/	e/
Deer Population	1,226	1,226	2,515	1,226	1,226	1,226	2,515	1,226	2,515		
Bighorn Sheep Population	55	55	471	55	471	55	471	55	471		
Pronghorn Population	10	10	10	10	10	10	42	10	30		
Javelina Population	g/	NC	NS	NC	I	0	0	NC	0	I	I
Estimated Overall Change in Standard Habitat Sites	NC	I	I	0	0	I	I	I	1	I	I
Y/E Animal Species	NC	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Riparian Associated											
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
LIVESTOCK GRAZING											
Number of Operators	262	262	262	262	262	262	262	260	260	0	0

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES
RANGELAND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Resource	Existing	Proposed Action		No Action Alternative		Maximization of Livestock Forage Production Alternative		Enhancement of Other Resource Values Alternative		Elimination of Livestock Grazing Alternative	
		Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term	Short-Term	Long-Term
WATER RESOURCES											
<u>Water Depletion (acre-feet)</u>											
Livestock and Wildlife	278	261	316	NC	NC	261	365	191	281	1	3
Stockpond Evaporation	825	825	894	NC	NC	825	960	825	894	NC	NC
<u>Surface Runoff</u>											
Acres Decrease 0-9%	NC	0	633,005	NC	NC	0	0	0	681,176	0	709,609
Acres Decrease 10-20%	NC	0	42,279	NC	NC	0	468,046	0	42,279	0	0
Acres Increase 0-9%	NC	42,279	0	NC	NC	462,816	0	42,279	0	0	0
<u>Riparian/Floodplain Areas</u>	stable	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	+	+	+	+
<u>Water Quality</u>	stable	+	+	NC	NC	-	-	+	+	+	+
AIR QUALITY											
	stable	local dust increase	NS	NS	NS	local dust increase	NS	NS	dust decrease	dust decrease	dust decrease
CULTURAL RESOURCES											
<u>Sites Located Near</u>											
<u>Rangeland Developments</u>	NC	120 ^{1/2}	0	NC	NC	496	0	121	0	0	0
VISUAL RESOURCES											
	stable	NS-	NS	NC	NC	NS-	NS-	NS-	NS	NS+	NS+
RECREATION											
<u>Deer Hunting Visitor Hours</u>	stable	NS	NS	NC	NC	-	NS-	NS	NS	NS	NS
	79,560	79,560	137,565	79,560	79,560	79,560	137,565	79,560	137,565	79,560	153,315
ACECs (naturalness)											
	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
WILDERNESS											
	stable	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS+
SOCIAL CONDITIONS											
<u>Demography</u>		slow growth									
<u>Social Well Being</u>		stable	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
<u>Lifestyles/Values</u>		stable	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
<u>Attitudes, Concerns, Issues</u>		mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed	mixed
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (dollars)											
<u>Total Receipts</u>	7,813,071	7,402,371	8,318,530	7,813,071	7,813,071	7,402,371	9,320,464	6,264,020	7,775,458	3,454,055	3,454,055
Change	0	-410,700	505,459	0	0	-410,700	1,507,393	-1,549,051	37,613	-4,359,016	-4,359,016
<u>Variable Costs</u>	3,165,751	3,001,637	3,377,283	3,165,751	3,165,751	3,001,637	3,783,678	2,509,777	3,150,321	1,373,196	1,373,196
Change	0	-164,114	211,532	0	0	-164,114	617,927	-655,974	-15,430	-1,792,555	-1,792,555
<u>Returns Above Variable Costs</u>	4,647,320	4,400,734	4,941,247	4,647,320	4,647,320	4,400,734	5,536,786	3,754,243	4,625,137	2,080,859	2,080,859
Change	0	-246,586	293,927	0	0	-246,586	889,466	-893,077	-22,183	-2,566,461	-2,566,461
<u>Fixed Costs</u>	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918	417,918
<u>Depreciation</u>	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588	1,270,588
<u>Returns to Operator, Labor, Management, Capital</u>	2,958,814	2,712,228	3,252,741	2,958,814	2,958,814	2,712,228	3,848,280	2,065,737	2,936,631	392,353	392,353
Change	0	-246,586	293,927	0	0	-246,586	889,466	-893,077	-22,183	-2,566,461	-2,566,461
<u>Regional Income</u>	275,700,428	275,503,644	275,938,996	275,700,428	275,700,428	275,503,644	276,415,108	274,962,704	275,680,944	273,627,436	273,627,436
Change	0	-196,784	238,568	0	0	-196,784	714,680	-737,724	-19,484	-2,072,992	-2,072,992
<u>Regional Employment</u>	30,526	30,505	30,550	30,526	30,526	30,505	30,599	30,449	30,524	30,311	30,311
Change	0	-21	24	0	0	-21	73	-77	-2	-215	-215

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

PROPOSED SPECIAL DESIGNATION AREAS

Resource	Existing (No Designation)	Proposed Action (Designate ACEC)
<u>Gila Lower Box Riparian</u>		
VEGETATION		
Ecological Condition (acres)	NC	NC
Forage Value (acres)	NC	NC
Ground Cover	NC	NS
Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Plant Species	NC	NC
WILDLIFE		
Riparian Standard Habitat Site	0	1
Fisheries Habitat	D	1
T/E Species	-	+
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	NC	NC
LIVESTOCK GRAZING	NC	NC
WATER RESOURCES		
Riparian/Floodplain Areas	-	+
Water Quality	-	+
CULTURAL RESOURCES	NC	+
VISUAL RESOURCES	stable	+NC
RECREATION	stable	+
WILDERNESS	stable	+
<u>Gila Middle Box Wildlife</u>		
VEGETATION		
Ecological Condition (acres)	NC	NC
Forage Value (acres)	NC	NC
Ground Cover	NC	NC
Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Plant Species	NC	NC
WILDLIFE		
Riparian Standard Habitat Site	0	1
Fisheries Habitat	D	1
T/E Species	-	+
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	NC	NC
LIVESTOCK GRAZING	NC	NC
WATER RESOURCES		
Water Quality	NC	+
CULTURAL RESOURCES	NC	NC
VISUAL RESOURCES	stable	NC
RECREATION	stable	+
<u>Organ Mountains Scenic</u>		
VEGETATION		
Ecological Condition (acres)	NC	+
Forage Value (acres)	NC	+
Ground Cover	NC	+
Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Plant Species	NC	+

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

PROPOSED SPECIAL DESIGNATION AREAS (continued)

Resource	Existing (No Designation)	Proposed Action (Designate ACEC)
<u>Organ Mountains Scenic</u> (continued)		
WILDLIFE		
<u>Big Game Habitat</u>	NC	+
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES		
<u>Locatable</u>	NC	-
<u>Leasable</u>	NC	NS
<u>Salicable</u>	NC	NS
LIVESTOCK GRAZING	NC	NC
VISUAL RESOURCES	stable	+
RECREATION	stable	+
WILDERNESS	stable	+

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Las Cruces District Office Files, 1983.

- Notes: a/Preference is 263,930 AUMs but 5-year average licensed use is 228,200.
b/Worst case basis.
c/Shows present preference, but actual use would probably average the same as the 5-year average of 228,200.
d/Mechanical treatment, seedling, and chemical treatment only; other values same as PA.
e/All AUMs available to wildlife.
f/Populations for areas with more than .5 animals per section (Map 2-1).
g/No numbers calculated; population trend given.
h/The producing oil well is assumed to occur in the long-term for each alternative.
i/Cultural resource numbers refer to number of sites; to get acres, multiply by 32.
j/Fixed costs and depreciation are assumed to remain constant.
NC: No change from existing (changes not quantifiable).
NS: Not significant.
SI: Significant impact.
+ : Beneficial.
- : Adverse.
I : Increased value.
D : Decreased value.
0 : Zero.



**PROPOSED PLAN
FOR THE
LAS CRUCES / LORDSBURG
RESOURCE AREA**



PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA

HOW THE PROPOSED PLAN WAS SELECTED

The Proposed Plan was selected by a team composed of the District Manager, Area Manager, Team Leader, and appropriate team specialists. It was reviewed by the State Director. It was selected based on (1) issues raised throughout the planning process, (2) public input received during the formal 90-day comment period and at meetings and hearings, (3) a set of criteria used to evaluate alternatives (contained in Technical Report I), and (4) the environmental analysis developed on the previously formulated alternatives.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

This section describes for each issue the management objective, the specific proposed management actions, the rationale for those actions, a description of the procedures for implementation of the proposed actions, and a discussion of the consistency of the proposals with other agency plans. A description of the Proposed Action and alternatives is contained in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

The Proposed Plan is a modified version of the Preferred Alternative presented in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. The only change made to the Preferred Alternative is under the Rangeland Management issue with regard to vegetation treatments. To aid in comparing the Proposed Plan to the Preferred Alternative, the modified wording has been underlined.

Energy Minerals

Objective: To meet the demand for energy minerals exploration and development while minimizing the damage to other resources from these activities.

Proposed Management Actions

A total of 9,956 acres would not be open to leasing (NOL). Energy minerals leasing and associated exploration, development, production, and abandonment operations would be allowed within the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area, subject to special stipulations, on 675,979 acres. (See Overlays 2 and 3 in map pocket of Draft for areas with special stipulations.) The remainder of the Federal mineral estate in the Resource Area, 3,131,826 acres, would be open to energy minerals leasing with no special restriction or stipulation required other than those required under the standard operating procedures.

Rationale

Availability of energy minerals is a high national priority; however, not to the exclusion of other resource values. The development of energy minerals is important to the local economy. The Proposed Plan proposes a limited number of restrictions while opening other areas to

energy minerals leasing previously NOL or restricted. These restrictions include many already in existence because the need to protect those resources is still valid.

Implementation

Site-specific environmental documents will be prepared to assess site-specific impacts of each energy minerals action (e.g., Notices of Intent [NOIs] to conduct oil and gas exploration operations, Application Permits to Drill [APDs], sundry notices and reports on wells, and NOIs to conduct geothermal exploration operations). All surface use standards previously developed also will be used. (Technical Report II-1 contains the environmental review process for leasing and exploration.) The BLM will adhere to procedures to protect all resources on public land. Many procedures are required by various Federal and state laws, regulations, and legislative actions. (A list of sources for standard operating procedures is contained in Technical Report II-2.) Standard stipulations which are automatically attached to leases are contained in Appendix E-1 of the Draft.

Steps must be taken to remove the segregative effects of the Classification and Multiple Use (C&MU) Act on the following areas: Dona Ana Recreation Area, Granite Gap Recreation Area, and Needles Eye Picnic Site (see Draft Overlay 2 for general locations). Leases would be issued with appropriate stipulations in accordance with the decision based on the analysis contained in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Existing leases would not be disturbed.

Consistency

There are no known inconsistencies between the Proposed Plan and officially approved and adopted resource related policies and programs of other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Rangeland Management

Objective: To provide forage for livestock while accommodating the needs of wildlife and watershed and to concentrate management on those allotments with the most potential for improvement and resolution of resource conflicts.

Proposed Management Actions

The BLM proposes to implement a rangeland management program designed to concentrate management, rangeland developments, and vegetation treatments on those allotments that have a high potential for rangeland improvement and resolution of resource conflicts. The initial livestock forage allocation would be mutually agreed upon between the permittees and BLM and could be up to preference. If adjustments in livestock numbers are found to be necessary through the monitoring, decisions would be issued stating what the adjustments would be and the adjustments would be implemented over a 5-year period following the

issuance of the decision. Following consultation with the permittee, BLM proposes to establish the following:

1. proper level of forage utilization;
2. initial stocking rate;
3. the kind of livestock allowed;
4. the period of use;
5. areas to be excluded from livestock grazing;
6. the initial allocation of forage to big game species.

At the end of the monitoring period, the BLM proposes to establish:

1. proper stocking rate;
2. grazing treatments;
3. rangeland developments and vegetation treatments necessary to properly manage the renewable resources of the Resource Area.

The initial livestock forage allocation could be up to preference, which is 263,930 animal unit months (AUMs). The initial allocation for big game would be 1,917 AUMs. In the long-term, it is anticipated that 257,402 AUMs of forage would be available for livestock and 3,498 AUMs for big game.

Three levels of grazing management would be implemented. On 164 allotments, current satisfactory condition would be maintained (Category M); 17 allotments would be managed in a custodial manner while protecting existing resources (Category C); and management and rangeland improvement efforts would be concentrated on 71 allotments that have potential for improvement and where resource conflicts exist (Category I). Ten allotments are split among the three categories.

Activity plans would be prepared to resolve conflicts on allotments with riparian areas, proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), crucial deer, pronghorn, ibex, and bighorn sheep habitat as well as areas where threatened or endangered plant or animal species are known to occur.

Proposed rangeland developments would include construction of 25 dirt tanks, 67 miles of pipeline, 47 drinking troughs, drilling or equipping 11 wells, 1 cattleguard, 17 storage tanks, 68 erosion dikes, 55 miles of fence, and 4 umbrella catchments. Chemical vegetation treatments would include 9,609 acres of mesquite and 42,279 acres of creosote. If the vegetation treatments prove satisfactory and economically feasible, the actual treatment acreage would be increased to a level somewhere between the Proposed Action and the Maximization of Livestock Forage Production Alternative. The actual acreage would be

developed for each allotment through consultation with the permittee and other interested parties.

Category I allotments would be monitored to determine the livestock grazing capacity and the effectiveness of grazing treatments, vegetation treatments, and rangeland developments.

Rationale

Only through consultation with the permittee and monitoring will the BLM be able to determine the proper stocking rate, grazing treatments, rangeland developments, and vegetation treatments. The management categories help concentrate management and rangeland development efforts on those allotments that have a good potential for improvement and resolution of conflicts.

Rangeland developments will be needed to achieve better livestock distribution patterns, to improve rangeland conditions, and to protect areas which have high values for other resources. Vegetation treatments will be needed to remove competing undesirable shrubs.

Implementation

Following a decision on the MFP Amendment/EIS, livestock permittees and the Target Group would be consulted on an allotment-by-allotment basis to establish the initial level of livestock use, rangeland developments, vegetation treatments, and grazing treatments. (Refer to Appendix A-1 in the Draft for consultation policy and guidelines.) Livestock adjustments on Category I allotments made at the end of the monitoring period would be of sufficient magnitude to ensure a positive vegetative response or maintenance of satisfactory conditions.

Implementation of rangeland developments, vegetation treatments, and grazing treatments would occur over a 9-year period. The implementation schedule may change over time due to possible budget fluctuations, policy and procedural changes, and consultation with affected individuals.

Consistency

There are no known inconsistencies between the Proposed Plan and officially approved and adopted resource related policies and programs of other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Objective: To designate areas where special management is needed to protect important values. Priority has been given to the identification, proposed designation, protection, and special management proposals for ACECs.

Proposed Management Actions

Three areas would be designated as ACECs: the Gila River Lower Box Riparian Area, the Gila River Middle Box Wildlife Area, and the Organ Mountains Scenic Area. The geographical area is shown on Overlay 3 in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

Rationale

ACEC designations are proposed to protect riparian, wildlife, and scenic values. The areas proposed for the Gila Lower Box and Organ Mountains ACECs are within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) recommended suitable in the Draft Environmental Assessment for WSAs in the Las Cruces District (March 1983). The findings of this study will lead to recommendations, through the Secretary of the Interior and the President, to Congress. Only Congress has the authority to designate public land as wilderness.

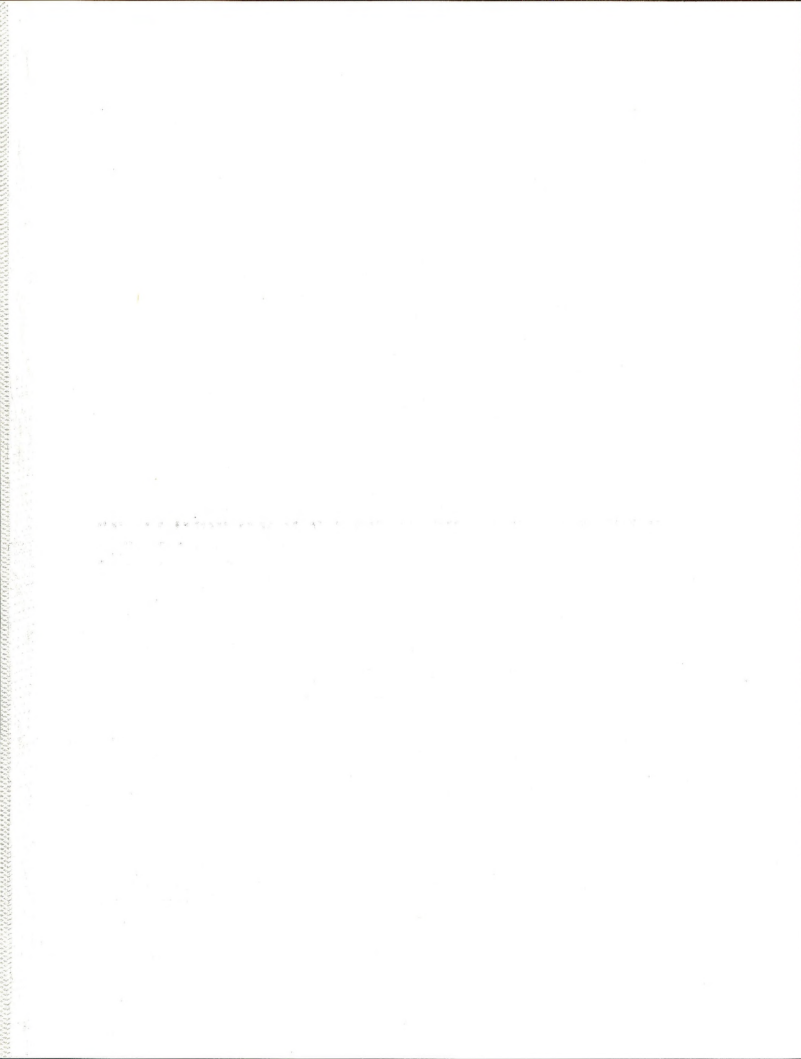
Implementation

Approval of the plan would constitute formal designation of all proposed ACECs. If the Gila Lower Box and Organ Mountains are designated wilderness, the ACEC designation would be cancelled without further planning action. The objectives of the ACECs would be met through wilderness management.

Consistency

There is one known inconsistency between the Proposed Plan and officially approved and adopted resource related policies and programs of other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

The designation of the Gila Lower Box Riparian and Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACECs on lands that are withdrawn for powersite purposes could adversely impact Bureau of Reclamation plans involving a storage structure at the Conner dam site on the Gila River. A feature of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) was to provide New Mexico 18,000 acre-feet of CAP water. This action would not be consistent with Bureau of Reclamation plans and studies in progress and state and local government policies with regard to the authorized feature of the CAP. However, the powersite withdrawals are recognized as being valid existing rights. If these rights are exercised to use the area for powersites and related purposes, the management objectives of the ACECs would be subordinate to these existing rights.



CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION



CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter summarizes the consultation and coordination conducted in preparation of the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (MFP Amendment/EIS) and Final MFP Amendment/EIS. The discussion includes the consultation, coordination, and public involvement during the planning, the development of the Proposed Action and alternatives, the writing of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area, and the public review comments and responses on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. A list of persons involved in the preparation of the MFP Amendment/EIS is provided in Table 1.

SCOPING ACTIVITIES

Scoping for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFP Amendment/EIS originated with the development of a Public Participation Plan, Issue Identification, and Planning Criteria for a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in January 1981. During the planning process, various Federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, and individuals were contacted. These contacts were made to inform the public about the RMP planning process, to gather resource information, and to identify significant issues from the public to be considered during the planning process.

As required by BLM regulation (43 CFR Subpart 1601, August 7, 1979), a general notice at the outset of the planning process which invites participation in the identification of issues and a notice inviting public comment on the planning criteria were accomplished through Federal Register Notices, news releases, Las Cruces District Newsletters, public meetings, and general notice letters. The scoping activities for the RMP are summarized in Table 2.

In early 1982, due to fiscal constraints, the scope of the RMP project was pared down to a MFP Amendment/EIS with three issues: Rangeland Management, Energy Minerals, and Wilderness Recommendations. The public was notified of the change in the Federal Register (January 29, 1982). The issue of wilderness recommendations, along with appropriate public involvement documentation, became the subject of a separate document. The Draft Environmental Assessment of Wilderness Study Areas in the Las Cruces District is available for review in the Las Cruces District Office.

The consultation, coordination, and scoping activities undertaken by the LCLRA specifically for the MFP Amendment/EIS are summarized in Table 3. Public contacts were coordinated by telephone, correspondence, and meetings between the various BLM Las Cruces District personnel and representatives of other Federal, state, or local agencies.

TABLE 1
LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	EIS Responsibility	Education	Experience
Mary Austin	Team Leader	B.S., Agricultural Economics New Mexico State University	BLM - 4 yrs. Planning Coordinator
Bruce G. Call	Soils, ACECs	B.S., Agriculture (Range and Soil Science) New Mexico State University	BLM - 4 yrs. Range Technician Range Conservationist Soil Scientist USFS - 7 mos. Forestry Technician Soil Technician
Beverly Cochran	Social Conditions	B.A., M.A., Sociology and Psychology Texas Christian University Ed.D., Sociology and Psychology North Texas State University	BLM - 4 yrs. Sociologist Tarleton State University - 3 yrs. Professor - Sociology Sam Houston State University - 3 yrs. Professor - Sociology and Psychology North Texas State University - 3 yrs. Instructor - Sociology Texas Christian University - 1 yr. Instructor - Sociology
Karen Concho	Typist	A.A.; Senior, Government New Mexico State University Real Estate Certificate, Real Estate Institute, Albuquerque, NM	BLM - 3 yrs. Mag Card Operator Native American Program - 2 yrs. Office Personnel
Donita C. Cotter	Wilderness, Recreation, Visual Resources	B.S., Environmental Science Texas Christian University	BLM - 4 yrs. Wilderness Specialist
Donna Y. Gonzales	Typist	Junior, Business Administration New Mexico State University	BLM - 2 yrs. Clerk-Typist
Rena A. Gutierrez	Writer-Editor	B.A., Journalism/Mass Communications New Mexico State University	BLM - 4 yrs. Public Information Aid Clerk-Typist Writer-Editor
Steven C. Hamp	Climate, Water Resources, Other Land Uses, ROWs, Transportation	B.S., Geology and Sociology Illinois State University M.S., Watershed Management University of Arizona	BLM - 4 yrs. Hydrologist USFS - 2 yrs. Forest Technician
Kimberly A. Harrison	Editorial Assistant (Typing)	2 semesters - Biology Texas Lutheran College 1 semester - Art University of Texas at El Paso 1 semester - Secretarial Science El Paso Community College	BLM - 4 yrs. Clerk-Typist Planning Clerk (Typing) Editorial Assistant (Typing) El Paso Community College - 4 yrs. Registration Cashier Night Cashier/PBX Operator Accounts Payable File Clerk Secretary II
Pete M. Laudeman	Cultural Resources	B.A., M.A., Anthropology University of Arizona	BLM - 7 yrs. Archaeologist
Gerald Sanchez	Economics Conditions	B.B.A., Economics New Mexico State University	BLM - 3 yrs. Cooperative Ed. Trainee (Division of Administration) Support Services Supervisor Budget Analyst Regional Economist
Linda K. Seibert	Wildlife	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University B.A., Spanish (minor - Russian) San Jose State University	BLM - 7 yrs. Wildlife Biologist NMSU - 2 yrs. Library Assistant Santa Clara County - 2 yrs. Welfare Eligibility Worker

TABLE 1 (continued)

LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	EIS Responsibility	Education	Experience
Joseph I. Torrez	Mineral Resources and Geology, Topography, Air Quality	B.A., Geology New Mexico Highlands University	BLM - 6 yrs. Geologist NM State Highway Department - 5 yrs. Soils Testing/Surveying Sales - 1 yr.
Lenna Trujillo	Typist	B.A., Sociology Gallaudet, Washington, D.C. M.Ed., Education Western Maryland College	BLM - 1 yr. Clerk-Typist
Gilbert Valencia	Cartographic Technician		BLM - 5 yrs. Cartographic Technician
Beatrice A. Wade	Vegetation, Livestock Grazing	B.S., Forestry (minor - Wildlife Mgt.) 10 quarters - Range Ecosystem Mgt. 2 yrs. - Masters Thesis Work University of Florida	BLM - 5 yrs. Range Conservationist University of Florida - 5 yrs. Range Biologist (Research)

Background Preparers

Name	Education	Professional Experience
Louie Apodaca	Mayfield High School Las Cruces, New Mexico	1 yr. - Cartographic Aid
Louis Bevacqua	B.S., Range/Wildlife Management Texas Technical	3 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Gary Brandenburg	B.S., Forestry University of Montana	4 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Susan Britt	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	2 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Mike Candelaria	B.S., M.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	2½ yrs. - Range Conservationist
Steve Daly	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	2 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Dino DeSimone	B.S., Range Management Arizona State University	6 mos. - Range Technician
Shane Everett	B.S., Soil Science University of Vermont	2 yrs. - Soil Scientist
Mark Hakkila	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	9 mos. - Range Technician
Art Hayes	B.S., M.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	9 mos. - Range Conservationist
Robert Hayes	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	2 yrs. - Wildlife Biologist
Allegra Helfenstein	B.S., Biology Colorado State University	2½ yrs. - Surface Protection Specialist
Amy Heuslein	B.S., Biology Stephens College	3 yrs. - Wildlife Biologist
Terry Hicks	B.S., Biology (working on M.S., Soils/Range Management) New Mexico State University	2 yrs. - Soil Scientist
Elaine Hill	B.S., Wildlife Management Humboldt State University	3 yrs. - Wildlife Biologist
Randall Hill	B.S., Wildlife Management Humboldt State University	4 yrs. - Wildlife Biologist
Alan Kraus	B.S., Biology University of New Mexico M.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	3 yrs. - Wildlife Biologist

TABLE 1 (concluded)

LIST OF PREPARERS

Background Preparers (continued)

Name	Education	Professional Experience
Susan Lobley	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	1 yr. - Range Technician
Walter Lujan	B.S., Range Science New Mexico State University	7 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Helen Miller	B.A., Psychology University of New Mexico B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	1 yr. - Range Technician
Steve Park	B.S., Soil Science New Mexico State University	3 yrs. - Soil Scientist
John F. Parrish	B.S., M.S., Biology Midwestern University	3½ yrs. - Wildlife Biologist
Ray Sanchez	B.S., Range Science New Mexico State University	7 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Bill Schwebke	B.S., Range Science/Wildlife Management New Mexico State University	1 yr. - Range Conservationist
Thor Stephenson	B.S., Zoology University of Wyoming M.S., Range Science New Mexico State University	3 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Bob Tinguely	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	1 yr. - Range Conservationist
Mike Whitel	B.S., Soil Science University of Maine	2 yrs. - Soil Scientist
Karl Whitmore	B.S., Wildlife Science New Mexico State University	4 mos. - Range Technician
Bill Wier	B.S., Wildlife Science M.S., Interdisciplinary New Mexico State University	2 yrs. - Range Conservationist
Richard Wilborn	B.S., Biology New Mexico State University	3 yrs. - Wildlife Biologist

Support Personnel

Doug Coalson
Carol Crosby
M. Isabel Diaz
Marisela Meza
Sylvia A. Garcia
Tom Gow
Efrain Holguin
Beverly Lewis
Bill Mathwig
Kathy Miles
Maria Luisa Rivas
Anna Sifuentes

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Las Cruces District

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Tom Birch, District Range Specialist
Thomas C. Custer, District Geologist
Kenneth E. Holmes, District Wildlife Specialist
Jeff Jarvis, District Outdoor Recreation Planner
Ed Webb, Environmental Coordinator
Diana D. Garretson, Public Affairs Specialist
Benjamin A. Nunez, Range Specialist
Juan Padilla, Realty Specialist

New Mexico State Office

Bernie Chavez, Natural Resource Specialist
Bill Dalness, Geologist
Herb Garm, Hydrologist
Lynn C. Kincaid, Archaeologist
Teodoro B. Rael, Regional Economist
Verlyn D. Saladen, Soil Scientist
Jerry Tomson, Range Specialist
Lee L. Upham, Wildlife Biologist
John W. Whitney, Natural Resource Specialist

TABLE 2
SCOPING ACTIVITIES
LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RMP

Method of Contact	Date	Location
Federal Register Notice	1/23/81	
News Release	2/4/81 3/18/81	
Newsletter	2/4/81 3/2/81 4/2/81 5/1/81	
Public Scoping Meeting	4/8/81 4/15/81 4/22/81 4/29/81	Lordsburg Las Cruces Silver City Deming
<u>Meetings</u>		
Las Cruces District Grazing Advisory Board	3/26/81	Las Cruces
Las Cruces District Advisory Council	12/4/81 3/25/81 7/22/81	Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces
General Notice Letter	3/13/81	
<u>General Correspondence</u>		
Office of the Governor	2/3/81	
Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments	2/19/81	
Southern Rio Grande Council of Governments	2/19/81	
San Carlos Apache Tribe	3/12/81	
Mescalero Apache Tribe	3/30/81	
Sierra Club - Southwestern New Mexico Regional Group	3/31/81	
Request for Comment (Booklet I)	4/1/81	
Public Input Analysis	6/16/81	
Request for Comment (Booklet II)	7/12/81	

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office files, 1982.

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND SCOPING ACTIVITIES
LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG MFP AMENDMENT/EIS

Contacts	Date(s)	Location	Meeting/ Personal Communication	Telephone Call	Correspondence	Other
<u>New Mexico Congressional Delegation</u>						
U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman	3/30/83	Las Cruces	X			
U.S. Senator Pete Domenici	1/11/82 *3/30/83	Las Cruces	X			
U.S. Senator Harrison Schmitt	1/11/82	Las Cruces	X			
U.S. Representative Joe Skeen	1/11/82 *3/30/83	Las Cruces	X			
<u>Arizona State Agencies</u>						
*Arizona Game and Fish Department	2/16/83 5/31/83			X X		
*Arizona Natural Heritage Program	6/3/83			X		
<u>New Mexico State Agencies</u>						
Agriculture Department	9/13/82 10/1/82 *3/17/83	Las Cruces Las Cruces	X X X			
Council of Governments						
Southern Rio Grande Council	6/4/82			X		
Southwest New Mexico Council	5/11/82 7/23/82 *3/29/83	Silver City Silver City	X X X	X		
Department of Finance and Administration						
Planning Division	5/11/82			X		
Historic Preservation Bureau	2/5/82 8/3/82 8/26/82	Santa Fe Santa Fe Santa Fe		X X	X X	
Energy Minerals Department						
Mining and Minerals Division - Oil Conservation Division	8/6/82			X		
Land Office	2/12/82	Santa Fe	X			
Natural Resources Department						
Administrative Services Division - Heritage Section	4/1/82 6/18/82 6/22/82 7/13/82			X X X	X	
Department of Game and Fish	1/11/82 6/14/82 7/16/82 9/82 9/15/82 10/2/82 *5/31/83	Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces	X X X X X X			
New Mexico State University				X		
Range Improvement Task Force	3/9/82 9/7/82 9/28/82 10/5/82 10/8/82 *3/17/83	Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces Las Cruces	X X X X X			
Range Staff	1/21/82	Las Cruces	X			
Agricultural Economics Staff			ongoing personal communication			District Manager spoke to RWSU class: "History of Land Patterns in New Mexico" - 5/18/82.
Entomology and Plant Pathology	9/29/82	Las Cruces	X			

TABLE 3 (continued)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND SCOPING ACTIVITIES
LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG MFP AMENDMENT/EIS

Contacts	Date(s)	Location	Meeting/ Personal Communication	Telephone Call	Correspondence	Other
<u>Federal Agencies</u>						
Department of Agriculture						
Forest Service	3/3/82	Carlsbad	X			
Department of Defense						
Department of the Army White Sands Missile Range	2/23/82	White Sands	X			
Department of the Interior						
Bureau of Indian Affairs	7/20/82			X		
Bureau of Land Management - Safford District *Safford District and Gila Forest Service	1/19/82 *5/5/83 6/8/83		X X X			
Bureau of Reclamation	7/20/82 *6/9/83 *5/24/83	Arizona Nevada		X X X		
National Park Service	3/3/82	Carlsbad	X		X	
Minerals Management Service	7/20/82			X		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	5/19/82 7/27/82 *3/21/83 *6/20/83 *7/7/83 *7/15/83		X X	X	X X	
<u>Regional and Local Agencies</u>						
Dona Ana County Manager	7/19/82	Las Cruces	X			
Dona Ana County Planners	2/22/82 7/19/82	Las Cruces	X X			
*Dona Ana County Commission	4/6/83	Las Cruces	X			
Hidalgo County Commission	3/18/82 *4/12/83	Lordsburg Lordsburg	X X			
Grant County Manager	8/12/82	Silver City	X			
*Grant County Commission	3/28/83	Silver City	X			
Hidalgo County Manager	8/13/82	Lordsburg	X			
Luna County Commissioners	7/23/82 *4/6/83	Deming Deming	X X			
<u>Livestock Related Organizations and Informal Groups</u>						
Las Cruces District Grazing Advisory Board	1/14/82 4/8/82 7/29/82 *3/24/83 *4/22/83	Las Cruces	X X X			
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau	4/15/82 9/13/82	Las Cruces	X X			
Luna County Ranchers	2/2/82	Deming	X			
Grant County Ranchers	2/4/82	Silver City	X			
Hidalgo County Ranchers	2/25/82	Lordsburg	X			
New Mexico Cattle Growers Association	9/24/82	Dell City, TX		X		
*Southwest New Mexico Grazing Association	4/29/83	Las Cruces	X			

TABLE 3 (concluded)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND SCOPING ACTIVITIES
LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG MFP AMENDMENT/EIS

Contacts	Date(s)	Location	Meeting/ Personal Communication	Telephone Call	Correspondence	Other
<u>Conservation Organizations (or Representatives)</u>						
Minibres Watershed Association	2/19/82	Silver City	X			
New Mexico Natural History Institute	2/19/82	Silver City	X			
Grant County Audubon Society	2/19/82	Silver City	X			
Sierra Club - Southwestern New Mexico Regional Group	3/6/82	Las Cruces	X			
*Sierra Club - El Paso Regional Group	4/22/83	El Paso	X			
New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee	2/19/82	Silver City	X			
*Las Cruces District Advisory Council	5/5/83	Lordsburg	X			
						*Field trip to Gila Lower Box AGCC -- District Advisory Council and BLM -- 5/4/83.
<u>Other</u>						
Federal Land Bank	8/2/82			X		
Production Credit Association	7/28/82			X		

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office Files, 1982 and 1983.

Note: *These occurred after release of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

Other consultation and coordination activities undertaken by the Las Cruces District included field trips with interested individuals and small groups and informal meetings or field trips with affected permittees. The documentation of public contacts is located in the permanent documentation files and is available for review in the Las Cruces District Office.

In addition, an extensive mailing list has been assembled throughout the planning process for both the RMP and MFP Amendment/EIS to ensure that all Federal, state, and local agencies and interested groups and individuals are kept informed.

Public Meetings on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS

Public meetings were held on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS in Deming, New Mexico, on April 12, 1983, in Las Cruces, New Mexico on April 13, 1983, and in Lordsburg, New Mexico, on April 14, 1983. The meetings were informal and provided an open forum for discussion and information on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, in addition to the Environmental Assessment for Wilderness Study Areas in the Las Cruces District and Asset Management. Twenty people attended the Deming meeting, 57 attended the Las Cruces meeting, and 23 were in attendance at the Lordsburg meeting.

Agency Coordination

On June 1, 1982, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was initiated by the MFP Amendment/EIS Team Wildlife Biologist. On January 25, 1983, the FWS sent a list of the threatened or endangered species which may occur in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area. The Team Wildlife Biologist completed the biological assessment and it was sent to the Field Supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 17, 1983. The Biological Opinion from the FWS was received July 11, 1983. Correspondence concerning the Biological Assessment and Opinion is found in Appendix D of the Final MFP Amendment/EIS.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MFP AMENDMENT/EIS

The Draft MFP Amendment/EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on March 8, 1983. The Notice of Availability and Public Hearing dates were published in the March 11, 1983, Federal Register (Vol. 48, No. 49, pp. 10478-10479). The Draft MFP Amendment/EIS was made available to the public and the comment period started March 18, 1983. The 90-day public comment period ended June 16, 1983. Several public notices (including news releases and newsletters) were distributed announcing the availability of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS and notices of public hearings.

Prior to distribution of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, cards of inquiry were sent to professional societies, interest groups, and livestock permittees asking them if they would be interested in receiving the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. As a result, approximately 900 copies were distributed by mail to various individuals, organizations,

and government agencies. In addition, copies were available at 11 different libraries and the BLM offices in New Mexico.

On June 9-10, 1983, agencies having jurisdiction or expertise were contacted by telephone to remind them of the public comment deadline and to determine if they would be submitting comments. Telephone confirmations were filled out at this time.

In addition to all the agencies, organizations, and interest groups contacted during consultation, coordination, and scoping activities (See Tables 2 and 3), the Final MFP Amendment/EIS will be sent to and comments requested from the following (an asterisk indicates those who responded to the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS):

Congressional Delegation and
New Mexico State Legislators

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman
State Senator Frank O. Papen
State Senator J.J. (Jimmy) Rogers
State Senator I.M. Smalley
State Senator Lamar E. Gwaltney
State Senator Ben Altamirano
State Representative Thomas P. Foy
State Representative Ralph D. Hartman
State Representative G. McSherry
State Representative Murray Ryan
State Representative Ruben N. Smith
State Representative Mary L. Thompson
State Representative Mary Tucker
State Representative Brent Westmoreland

New Mexico State Agencies

*Agriculture Department
 Livestock Board
*Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
Commerce and Industry Department
 Economic Development Division
Council of Governments
 *Southern Rio Grande Council
Department of Finance and Administration
 Office of Cultural Affairs
 Museum Division
 *Planning Division
 Clearinghouse/Coordination
 Bureau
*Department of Game and Fish
*Energy and Minerals Department
 Energy Resource and Development
 Division
Governor's Office
Health and Environment Department
 Environmental Improvement Division

New Mexico State Agencies (cont.)

Highway Department
Land Office
 Commissioner's Office
Natural Resources Department
 Forestry Division
 Park and Recreation Division
 Soil and Water Conservation
New Mexico Radio Communications
 Department
*State Engineer/Interstate Stream
 Commission
State Police
Universities
 Eastern New Mexico University
 Institute of Mining and Technology
*New Mexico State University
 *Range Improvement Task Force
University of New Mexico
Western New Mexico University

Federal Agencies

*Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
 Agricultural Stabilization and
 Conservation Service
 Farmers Home Administration
*Forest Service
 Office of Environmental Quality
 Science and Education Administration
 Jornada Experimental Range
 Soil Conservation Service
Department of Defense
 Department of the Air Force
 Holloman Air Force Base
 Department of the Army
 Corps of Engineers
 Fort Bliss

Federal Agencies (cont.)

Department of Energy
 Department of the Interior
 *Bureau of Mines
 *Bureau of Reclamation
 *Fish and Wildlife Service
 *Geological Survey
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation
 Service
 Department of Justice
 Immigration and Naturalization
 Service
 Border Patrol
 Department of Transportation
 Department of the Treasury
 U.S. Customs Service
 *Environmental Protection Agency
 *International Boundary and Water
 Commission

Regional and Local Agencies

Chamber of Commerce, El Paso
 Chamber of Commerce, Las Cruces
 City Manager, Deming
 City Manager, Lordsburg
 City Manager, Silver City
 County Agent, Dona Ana County
 Dona Ana County Commissioners
 Elephant Butte Irrigation District
 El Paso County Commissioners
 Grant County Commissioners
 Grant County Extension Service
 Hidalgo County Extension Service
 Jornada Resource Conservation District
 Luna County Extension Service
 Luna County Manager
 Mayor, City of Anthony
 Mayor, City of Bayard
 Mayor, City of Central
 Mayor, City of Deming
 Mayor, City of El Paso
 Mayor, City of Hurley
 Mayor, City of Las Cruces
 Mayor, City of Lordsburg
 Mayor, City of Silver City
 Mayor, Village of Hatch
 Southeast New Mexico Economic
 Development District
 Southwest New Mexico Resource
 Conservation District
 New Mexico Border Commission

Indian Tribes

Mescalero Apache Indian Tribe
 San Carlos Indian Tribe

Livestock Related Organizations

*Las Cruces District Grazing Advisory
 Board
 Luna County Farm and Livestock Bureau
 Sierra County Farm and Livestock Bureau
 Southwest Livestock Grazing Association

Professional Societies

American Fisheries Society
 New Mexico Wildlife Society
 Society of American Foresters,
 New Mexico Chapter
 Society of Range Management,
 New Mexico Chapter
 Soil Conservation Society
 Wildlife Society

Arizona State Agencies

Arizona Game and Fish Department
 University of Arizona

Conservation Organizations

Ada County Fish and Game League
 Albuquerque Archaeological Society
 Albuquerque Environmental Center
 Albuquerque Geological Society
 Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
 American Wilderness Alliance
 Central New Mexico Audubon Society
 *Continental Divide Trail Society
 Dona Ana County Association of Sportsmen
 Dona Ana County Historical Society
 Earth First!
 El Paso Archaeological Society
 El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
 El Paso Wilderness Preservation
 Committee
 Friends of the Earth
 Human Systems Research
 Izaak Walton League
 *Las Cruces District Advisory Council
 Luna County Historical Society
 Mesilla Valley Audubon Society
 National Council of Public Land Users

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED

Conservation Organizations (cont.)

National Speleological Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
New Mexico Association of Natural Resources Conservation Districts
New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water
New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council
*New Mexico Natural History Institute
New Mexico Ornithological Society
New Mexico Wilderness Newsletter
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Oregon Environmental Council
Public Land Council
San Andres Refuge
*Sierra Club--El Paso Regional Group
Southwest Research and Development Company
Speleological Society
Texas Archaeological Society
The Wilderness Center
*Wildlife Management Institute
Wilderness Society

Other Groups

Albuquerque Jeep Herders Association
Albuquerque Off-Road Runners, Inc.

Other Groups (cont.)

Boy Scouts of America, Yucca Council
*Cougar Fluorspar Corporation
Deming Gem and Minerals Society
Dona Ana County Association of Sportsmen
Gemcrafters and Explorers
Grant County Rolling Stones
Hot Springs Gun Club
Jets Radio Club
Jim Huff's Four Wheel Drive Center
Las Cruces Four Wheelers
Las Cruces Motorcycle Club
Las Cruces ORV Club
Mesilla Valley Grotto
*Minerals Exploration Coalition
Motorcycle Association of New Mexico
New Mexico Association of Environmental Education
New Mexico Oil and Gas Association
*Phelps Dodge Corporation
Picacho Gun Club
Prairie Dawgs Motorcycle Club
Rio Grande Rough Riders
Sierra County Miners Association
Sierra Rock Club
Southwest Mountaineers
Sunshine Valley Garden Club
University of New Mexico
Mountaineering Club
Woodward-Clyde Consultants

Individuals

Copies of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS were distributed by mail to all permittees and all other individuals on the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area mailing list.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED

Two alternatives were considered but not analyzed. One alternative was the "No Energy Minerals Leasing Alternative." This alternative was considered to be unrealistic when the energy needs of our nation were taken into account.

The second alternative was the "No Wilderness Alternative." To analyze this alternative in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS would have been a needless repetition of data contained in another document, the Draft Environmental Assessment Wilderness Study Areas in the Las Cruces District (released in March 1983).

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

During the comment period (March 8 to June 16, 1983), 27 letters from the public and agencies were received. After the close of the comment period, an additional 8 letters were received. If required, all letters received were responded to in the Final MFP Amendment/EIS. Letters which did not address the adequacy or accuracy of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS were not responded to in the Final MFP Amendment/EIS, but letters will be sent responding to the concerns expressed in the letters. Individuals or organizations who sent letters are listed in Table 4. All letters are reproduced in their entirety.

Responses have been made to all substantive comments presented in the letters. Substantive comments were considered to be those which addressed either the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS or the merits of the alternatives or both. The responses are presented adjacent to the comments in each letter. Any additional letters received will receive full consideration in the final decision.

TABLE 4

COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED

Assigned Number in Order of Receipt	Name of Commentator
1	Ralph A. Fisher, Jr.
2	*State Planning Division (State Clearinghouse)
3	Thomas R. Ellinwood
4	Continental Divide Trail Society
5	*President, New Mexico State University
6	Wildlife Management Institute
7	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
8	U.S. Bureau of Mines
9	William L. Merrill
10	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
11	*Cougar Fluorspar Corporation
12	Gregory S. Forbes
13	State Planning Division (State Clearinghouse)
14	*U.S. Forest Service -- Region 3
15	*Minerals Exploration Coalition
16	Las Cruces District Grazing Advisory Board
17	Rita and Janaloo Hill
18	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
19	*Southern Rio Grande Council of Governments
20	*Dr. and Mrs. Robert Scholes
21	*Sam Cureton
22	Sierra Club -- El Paso Regional Group
23	*International Boundary and Water Commission
24	*New Mexico Natural History Institute
25	Range Improvement Task Force
26	P Phelps Dodge Corporation -- Tyrone Branch
27	*Andy and Louise Peterson
28	Roger Sperka
29	New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
30	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
31	*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
32	Las Cruces District Advisory Council
33	Ted A. Larson
34	Bureau of Reclamation
35	U.S. Geological Survey

Notes: * - Indicates letters not requiring a response in the Final MFP Amendment/EIS.

/ - Comment letters below the line were received after the comment period closed.

RALPH A. FISHER, JR.
P. O. Box 1022
SILVER CITY, N. M. 88062

March 26, 1983

Mary Austin, EIS Team Leader
BLM - Las Cruces Dist. Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, N.M. 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

Thank you, and Mr. Rathbun, for sending me a copy of the NFE/Amendment EIS on proposed Energy Minerals Leasing & Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area.

Since I will not be able to attend any of the public meetings I would like to put forth my comments for inclusion in the final EIS by means of this letter.

First of all I will say that I am probably wasting my time in writing this because I have a feeling that no matter what comments we citizens make the energy people and the ranchers are still going to be heavily favored to get pretty much what they want from this proposal. This became pretty obvious when BLM put every other category out of the proposal except energy leasing and range management. However, since it is a free country I will comment on the proposal anyway.

To begin with I will admit that I do not know a whole lot about energy & mineral leasing except that our national mining laws are archaic and long obsolete and that in the majority of cases the fees charged are entirely too small, amounting to a virtual free-ride for the lessors. This is true of the range lease fees also.

On the other hand I do have some knowledge of ranching practices and range management. I have my degree in Agriculture (Animal Husbandry & Farm & Ranch Management) and in my younger days worked for two of the larger, better run ranches in Arizona. Far superior to anything found in this corner of New Mexico. When I first came to Grant County in 1955 and saw the condition of the majority of the rangeland in the Resource Area I was really shocked. I was not used to seeing range in the sorry condition that I found. Thousands of acres of bare soil, more thousands of nothing but "bear-grass" and snake-weed and other unwanted plants, and more thousands of acres of nothing but creosote brush. What makes it even more sad, to me at least, is that these "ranchers" are actually proud of what they have, or profess to be, and may make it a point to chase off any "trespassers". What makes it even more sad, to me at least, is that these "ranchers" are actually proud of what they have, or profess to be, and may make it a point to chase off any "trespassers". What makes it even more sad, to me at least, is that these "ranchers" are actually proud of what they have, or profess to be, and may make it a point to chase off any "trespassers". And now, just like snapping your fingers, and working miracles the BLM, with all its magic, and our money, is going to transform these wastelands into a cowman's paradise. Why, so that their future generations can have the pleasure of turning them into wasteland again?

(2)

I have read through the various proposals and am not too enthused about any of them. Each has some good points and each has bad points. It is too bad that the people drawing them up can't see a way to incorporate all the good points and forget the others.

In Chapter I, referring to map 1-2 Vegetation Treatments, it shows areas south of Lordsburg that are mesquite areas that are to be chemically treated. WHY?? I have been all over this area, where I could get in, and mesquite and saltbush is about all that will grow in that alkali-dirt, so why spray it and kill off the only plant life that will grow there and that keeps it from being a complete desert? The mesquite leaves and beans are all that the cattle and what wildlife is there has to forage on, and I seriously doubt that government expertise will improve upon this situation. Also, I hope that you are aware that a small population of Harris' hawks has moved into these mesquite areas just in recent years, like since 1970. This is a new range extension for this species, into an area where they were not found before. They moved into the area, mainly because of the mesquites and the food that is available. Also, using the area for nesting and feeding purposes are several Swainson's hawks, great-horned owls, Bell's vireos, Bendire's thrashers, white-winged doves, ground doves, and other species. The hawks and the owls are there because their food species are in abundance... jack-rabbits, cottontails, wood rats, kangaroo rats, ground squirrels, and several other species of rodents. Spraying the mesquites and killing them off would also eliminate these various rodent species and thus force the raptors to die or move elsewhere. Thus, the entire ecology of the area would be wiped out. And for what? Just for a few more head of sorry Mexican cattle and a couple of "maybe" gas wells.

Twenty years ago the San Simon Glenega area was one of the prime wildlife habitat areas in this corner of the state. Now it is nothing but a big dried-up, ugly hole in the ground with many dead and soon-to-be-dead trees and nothing else growing except Sacaton grass and other unpalatable weeds. Everything else has been trampled to death by Mexican cattle run in there by a man who could care less what happens to the ecological habitat and never should have been allowed to have a grazing lease to begin with.

The Glenega area is also home for at least two families of Harris' hawks and other species mentioned above, and I am told there are additional Harris's just across the line in Arizona. Again they are there because the mesquite groves are there which they rely upon for nesting, for shelter, and for food.

1-1 The areas you refer to on Map 1-2 are proposed creosote treatment areas rather than mesquite. The BLM is aware of the Harris hawk populations; however, no mesquite treatment is proposed for those areas. In the mesquite treatment areas, a maximum kill rate of 60 percent is expected. This would result in increased plant diversity and would be beneficial for a variety of wildlife. Total removal of mesquite thickets in riparian areas would not be allowed.

1-2 In your proposals for the Gila River Middle Box ACEC there is nothing what-so-ever said about the proposed Connor Dam. How come? Doesn't BLM's righthand know what its lefthand is doing? If Connor Dam goes in there will no longer be a Gila Middle Box ACEC; it will all be under water, as will the Gila River Bird Habitat Area below Bill Evans Lake, which the U.S.F.S. went to great effort and considerable cost to set aside several years ago. As for the dam, any of them, I do not feel they are needed.

1-3 On page xxviii it is stated that "the Gila Lower Box stream channel would be stabilized..." How? If by channelization - NO THANKS. We do not need anymore channelization boom-doggles on the Gila. That's the proper way to treat a riverbed or streambed, as many studies throughout the western states have proven but which the Corps of Engineers continue to ignore.

1-4 On page xvii & others, mention is made of the Massacre Peak Petroglyph Site. How about the other petroglyph site in the Pony Hills just to the west? This is an easier access area and is, therefore, easier to vandalize, which it has been. Both areas need protection badly. The Pony Hills area has some petroglyphs that are unique only to this location, like the hump-backed man on a cane, which has been found in only one other place - on the bottom of a Pinbess bowl that is housed, I believe, in the Museum at U.N.M.

NO
GO
1-5 In the Proposed Action, page xi, item one, a total of 3,132,631 acres would be open to leasing with no stipulations; 675,894 acres open with stipulations; and only 9,836 acres NOL. What a gross imbalance. This certainly proves my opening comment that the energy people & ranchers are going to be favored regardless. Also, only 1,917 ADMs & 3,498 ADMs of forage available for big game, or wildlife. What a rip-off. How do you intend to raise the various species of wildlife aware of these quotas? They cannot read bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo.

1-6 On page xvi at the bottom, how can you be so positive with the figures of \$9.4 million increase in income and 790 jobs? And \$41 million and 3390 jobs? More government magic? I did not realize that Washington had hired seers. That helps to explain alot of things.

Something over 4 million acres are involved in the Resource Area plan and on pg. xviii it states that "an annual rental fee of \$3,917,761 would be generated from leasing all available acreage. That figures to less than \$1.00 per acre per year. As I said previously they are getting a free ride. The public is getting ripped, or worse, in more ways than one.

Like most other government agencies your priorities are all backwards. You are worrying about appeasing the energy people and the ranchers first of all, then the sportsmen and recreationists and others. Your first priorities should be protection of, and quality improvement of the air, the water, and the soil and to hell with whose toes get hurt. Without these three necessities you have nothing else. Nothing. Period.

1-2 The BLM is aware of the Upper Gila Water Supply Study being conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation; however, the study is in Stage II at this point. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Upper Gila Water Supply Study is not scheduled to be released until September 1985. Although the State of New Mexico has an authorization for a portion of the water from the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968, the location of the dam site or groundwater pumping has not yet been established. When the selection of the site has been finalized, we will work in close cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Following publication of the Final Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area MFP Amendment/EIS this fall, a Record of Decision will be written. This step is the amendment selection approval process and will determine the management direction for the Resource Area based on the analysis in the Draft and Final MFP Amendment/EIS.

1-3 Under the Proposed Action, one of the objectives of the Gila River Lower Box Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern is to maintain and improve channel stability. This objective will be accomplished through natural methods (i.e., soil-holding vegetation) rather than through man made structures.

1-4 The Pony Hills petroglyph site is mentioned on page 2-43 of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS; however, it was overlooked in other parts of the document. This change is noted in the Errata section, pages 95 and 96. Draft page 1-9 (Final page 102) and Draft page 1-15 (Final page 132) have also been revised to reflect the change. The legal description for Pony Hills has been added to Technical Report II.

1-5 With regard to big game numbers, population management is the responsibility of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDFG). The proposed ADMs are based on estimates of optimum populations developed jointly by NMDFG and BLM.

1-6 The economic analysis for the energy minerals issue was performed based on anticipated energy minerals operations under the PA. An input-output model was used to derive the direct and indirect employment. Also, see assumption 4, page 3-2 in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

1
(4)

There are many points in the draft that I could comment on, good and bad, in all of the alternatives, but it would take a book as thick as the Draft itself. I would suggest that the majority of suggestions that come from Mr. Watt in Washington be ignored totally and that genuine effort be made to manage, since we must manage, for the best quality air, water and soil conditions possible. If this means no oil or gas leases then so be it. If it means drastic reductions in livestock (by all means no sheep or goats what-so-ever) and a change in the ranchera life-style then so be it too. The quality of the various types of habitats in this vast region certainly need some high quality upgrading and it will take much more than the EA or any of the alternatives can ever hope to accomplish, even by the year 2110, let alone 2010.

Chapter I, pg. 1-1, "Making energy minerals available is a high national priority." It is true, probably, that we need to develop new energy resources, but why do we need to develop all of them at once? Or even in the next 25 years as per the EA? The same management plans are being proposed by all governmental agencies in every state for every type of resource. Do it now. Do it today. For one reason only - so that the big companies can make more bucks at the taxpayers expense. It is the wrong way to go and needs much more thought by knowledgeable people who see something else beside dollar signs.

Chapter I, pgs. 1-1 & 1-2, "Existing rangeland conditions in the Resource Area indicates a need to concentrate management, rangeland development, and vegetation treatments on those allotments have a good potential for improvement." In other words BLM is finally willing to admit that southwest New Mexico is truly badly overgrazed. Amen. I have said this for years but I was always wrong.

1-7 Pg. 1-27, a flagged area within $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. of a raptor nest would not be large enough, especially so with the Harris' hawks in the mesquite areas. They are much more nervous and vulnerable than such species as red-tailed hawks. Besides, they can & will breed and nest all year-round.

1-8 I would also like to point out two errors on pg. 1-9. The Village of Central & the Town of Silver City are both in Grant County not Luna County as shown.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ralph Fisher

1-7 The radius from the raptor nests has been changed to $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile. See Errata section page 94 and revised Draft page B-3 (final page 122).

1-8 See revised Draft pages 1-9 and E-15 (final pages 102 and 132).

STATE PLANNING DIVISION
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE)
APPLICANT NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT

NIS-2

DATE March 25, 1983

TO: Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

ATTN: Mr. Daniel C. B. Rathbun

FROM: State Planning Division
Department of Finance & Administration
505 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 827-2073

Project Title Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment SAI Number NH 83 03 23-055
Environmental Impact Statement
Federal Funding Agency DOI Federal Catalog Number 15-000

This is to notify you that we have received your:

☐ Notification of Intent
☐ Preapplication

☒ Application and Standard Federal Form 424 and State Supplemental Form MIS-1

The following action has been taken:

☐ Your application does not require review; thank you for sending a copy to the Planning Division. Please advise us when Federal Action is taken on your application.

☒ The review of your application is being coordinated by David Martinez
(Lead Agency Review Coordinator)
State Planning Division (505) 827-6950
(Department) (Telephone)

You may expect to receive copies of the Review by April 23, 1983
(Date)

YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT TO THE SUBSTATE CLEARINGHOUSE(S) CHECKED BELOW. PLEASE DO SO IN ORDER TO AVOID DELAY OF FEDERAL ACTION.

☐ San Juan Regional Committee North Central New Mexico Economic
☐ Southwest New Mexico Council Development District
of Governments
☐ McKinley Area Council of Governments Southeastern New Mexico Economic
Development District
☐ Eastern Plains Council of Governments
☒ Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments Southern Rio Grande Council
of Governments

(See other side for names and addresses of the substate clearinghouses)

Approved January, 1980
Secretary, DFA

When—Original for applicant
Copy—BFO copy
Pink—COG's copy
Green—Lead copy

NEW MEXICO PLANNING DISTRICTS

CLEARINGHOUSE NAMES & ADDRESSES

COUNTIES

State Planning Office
Greer Building
505 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
Telephone: (505) 827-2073

Statewide

San Juan Regional Committee
303 West Pecos
Farmington, New Mexico 87401
Telephone: (505) 327-7701

San Juan

McKinley Area Council of Governments
309 South 3rd Street
Gallup, New Mexico 87301
Telephone: (505) 722-4327

McKinley

North Central New Mexico
Economic Development District
Post Office Box 5115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
Telephone: (505) 827-2014

Colfax
Los Alamos
Mora
Rio Arriba
San Miguel
Santa Fe
Taos

Middle Rio Grande Council of
Governments
505 Marquette, N.W., Suite 1320
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101
Telephone: (505) 243-2819

Bernalillo
Sandoval
Torrance
Valencia

Eastern Plains Council of Governments
Curry County Courthouse
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
Telephone: (505) 762-1714

Curry
DeBaca
Guadalupe
Harding
Quay
Roosevelt
Union

Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments
Post Office Box 2157
Silver City, New Mexico 88061
Telephone: (505) 388-1974

Catron
Grant
Hidalgo
Luna

Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development
District
Post Office Box 6639 RIAC
Roswell, New Mexico 88201
Telephone: (505) 347-5425

Chavez
Eddy
Lea
Lincoln
Otero

Southern Rio Grande Council
of Governments
575 South Alameda
City County Office Building
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Telephone: (505) 523-7474

Socorro
Sierra
Doña Ana

THOMAS R. ELLINWOOD
Ellinwood Ranch
Star Route 1, Box 590
Deming, New Mexico 88030

April 7, 1983

In re: 1616
MFP Amendment/EIS

Daniel C.B. Rathbun, District Mgr.
Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
BLM - Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

- 3-1 I most vigorously protest the BLM's proposed reduction on my allotment of 95% AUM's, or approximately 80 head year long.

I do not know which of the criteria under Category I were used as a basis for this proposed reduction, but I would very much resent it if it was "Present Management Appears Unsatisfactory."

I would emphasize that the Las Cruces office of the Bureau of Land Management is, in effect, the "parent" of the management of my ranch. In November of 1969 I agreed to a management plan prepared by that office, which has been followed faithfully by me ever since.

I have, on my own initiative and without any prodding by the BLM, reduced cattle numbers on the allotment in years when rainfall was short or came too late to make a good growing season. These figures are in your office and are based on my own, accurate, pasture records.

Should we have years ahead, as we have had in the past (and there is no reason to believe we will not) when rainfall provides lush feed, this proposed reduction would prohibit me from utilizing this feed. It is my strong feeling that, as I have reduced numbers when necessary, I should be allowed to utilize the feed in good years, and I mean within my present 339-head permit.

The economic effect on me of this proposed drastic (23.5% reduction would be a two-fold one. First, as already pointed out, I would be able to run fewer cattle in the good years; hence would suffer the resultant economic loss. Second, with cow units valued at about \$1500 to \$2000 (without the cow), the proposed reduction would devalue my ranch by some \$120,000 to \$160,000 by bureaucratic fiat.

- 3-1 Please refer to the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS page 1-15, second full paragraph. The maximum AUMs you could apply for would be your current preference. However, during years of above normal vegetative growth, numbers above preference can be applied for on a temporary basis. For analytic purposes, it was assumed that there would be a lower level of grazing use. This lower number does not mean that your AUMs would be reduced. Each case would be individually determined based on consultation with permittees and the Target Group, as well as resource data from monitoring studies.

Daniel C.S. Rathbun

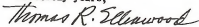
-2-

April 7, 1983

We started the 1983-84 grazing season with 125 cows on the allotment, having since added 14 bulls and later another 59 cows and 7 bulls, because of exceptionally good spring weeds and the early greening of some grass species. We are still 9% head under our allotment, and plan no further additions until conditions warrant it.

In other words, I spend a lot more time observing, thinking about and worrying about this land in question than anyone at the BLM.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas R. Ellinwood

CC: Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Congressman Joe Skeeh
New Mexico Cattlegrowers Assoc.

Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader



Continental Divide Trail Society

P.O. BOX 30002

BETHESDA, MD. 20814

April 22, 1983

Las Cruces District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Attn: Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader

Dear Ms. Austin:

4-1 We have reviewed the MFP Amendment/EIS on the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area (1616) and are disappointed at the lack of attention to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. We could find no discussion whatever, or even any mention of the Trail.

4-2 Even though a route for the CDNST has not been selected, the MFP Amendment/EIS should indicate how BLM intends to designate and manage a route, with particular attention to visual quality and water availability. The impacts upon the Trail that may result from the selection of one or another of the alternatives should also be examined.

We believe it is extremely important to make planning for the CDNST a part of your agenda so as to assure protection of its scenic and other values as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

James R. Wolf
Director

P.S. One option for CDNST location - the one we currently favor - is to proceed south through the Mimbres Mountains, on to Deming and the Florida Mountains and the Mexican border near Columbus. Cooke's Peak, Fort Cummings, and the Florida Mountains are on or close to this route and should be managed so as to preserve their potential values for Trail users.

4-1 The BLM is aware of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; however, a route for the trail has not been selected. The purpose of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS was to analyze the impacts of energy minerals leasing and implementation of a rangeland management program. Specific route designation and management considerations were beyond the scope of this Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

4-2 The impacts upon the trail that may result from the selection of one or another of the alternatives are not possible to predict due to the lack of specific information on the location of a route. However, Standard Operating Procedures require that site-specific Environmental Assessments be prepared to assess site-specific impacts of each action or project prior to implementation.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Box 3274 in Chaco, New Mexico 88003
Telephone (505) 696-3035



May 2, 1983

Ms. Mary Austin
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

We have reviewed the "Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Cruces-Lordsburg Resource Area," March 1983 which you were kind enough to send us and have no comment. However, if you do receive comments that will impact upon this University, I will appreciate your providing me with that information.

Very truly yours,

E. J. Vaid
Assistant to the President

EJW/jn

cc: Daniel C. B. Rathbun
Harold Daw

0101-11-830502-02



Wildlife Management Institute

709 Wire Building, 1000 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 • 202 / 347-1774

DANIEL A. POCKE

President

L. R. JAIN

Vice-President

L. E. WILLIAMSON

Secretary

WESLEY M. DRISCOLL, JR.

Board Chairman

May 2, 1983

Mary Austin
MFP Amendment/EIS
Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

The Wildlife Management Institute is pleased to comment on LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA DRAFT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN AMENDMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, New Mexico.

The plan, as written has very little for wildlife and a great deal for livestock grazing. We appreciate the low productivity of the arid lands involved (7.20 acres per AUM). We also appreciate the BLM's cooperative attitude with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and its interest in wildlife.

6-1 Nevertheless, there are several things that need to be changed for wildlife. The plan needs to address habitat diversity, and diversity must be an integral and major part of all land treatments and allotment management plans.

6-2 The plan provides no room for any substantial increase of big game AUM's as habitat is improved by grazing management or by direct habitat improvement projects. The increase of big game AUM's from 1,917 to 3,498 by the year 2010 is very low for 1,624,090 acres of public land, inasmuch as wildlife is a resource FLWPA lists as a major resource.

Changes are too slow. It appears there is data available to make necessary plans and needed reductions now, but such actions will await the results of negotiation followed by years of monitoring to be conducted by a constantly declining number of personnel.

6-3 Descriptions of monitoring actions and plans are not included. Since the entire results of this effort depend on monitoring, it must be described in detail. And the State Game and Fish Department should be an active participating partner.

6-1 Plant and animal diversity is shown in Chapter 2, Table 2-7, "Standard Habitat Sites Comparison Data." Figure 3-1, "Comparison of Summer Bird Diversities and Plant Diversities by Standard Habitat Site," and Table 3-8, "Comparison of Ecological Condition Classes Within Standard Habitat Sites" both analyze the impacts on diversity by implementing the Rangeland Management portion of the Proposed Action.

6-2 The relationship between BLM and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDFG) is explained in Chapter 1, page 1-41. The optimum numbers were jointly developed using historical population data and a potential for habitat improvement. Should the big game allocations prove inadequate, as determined by the monitoring studies, further adjustments can be made.

6-3 Monitoring studies as described in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS on pages 1-23 through 1-25 include the type of information to be collected and the actions to be taken based on the results of the studies. Although the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDFG) does not automatically participate in all monitoring studies, BLM wildlife specialists are involved and routinely consult with personnel of the NMDFG.

Ms. Mary Austin

-2-

May 2, 1983

The Institute's principal objection is not with the District and State direction provided, it is with National Policy. In this day of anti-welfare and reduction of all kinds of subsidies, we see no justification of large and increasing subsidies to a few ranchers operating livestock on what is marginal range at best. It is not even too important an operation in the area. Page 2-58 states that range livestock generates \$3,680,475 dollars and employs 206 people - while "other" livestock generates \$109,271,526 and employs 2076 people.

The costs of proposed range development and treatment are excessive for the forage produced and for returns on the government investments.

Development Costs (Page F12)	\$1,447,300
Range Treatment (computed from Table 1-7)	815,795
Total Cost	\$2,263,095
Five Year Average Use	227,031 AUM
Projected Use in Year 2010	257,402 AUM
	+ 30,371 AUM
Annual Interest on Development and Improvement at 8 percent	= \$181,048
Annual Income from Increased AUM (30,371) at Fee of \$1.40 AUM	= 42,519
Annual Interest Subsidy	\$138,529

Each increased AUM will cost \$74.51 and return only \$1.40 per year. This is \$4.56 less than the 8 percent interest on the new AUM.

The treatment of 11,888 acres costing \$815,795 will benefit only 8 permittees giving an average subsidy of \$101,974 to such one to produce only 4,447 new AUM at an average cost of \$183.45 per AUM.

There are 188 operators on the area. The expenses of development and treatment (\$2,263,095) compute to an average subsidy of \$12,038 per operator. In addition (Page 2-62) AUM have a defacto ranch value of \$100 per AUM. This value is based on the active preference (\$71,497 AUM) not the average use (227,031 AUM) cited above. The long-term increase above the active preference will be an additional 5,905 AUM. At \$100 per AUM this is \$59,050 or another average subsidy of \$314 per operator.

We believe these subsidies are completely out of line when it is proposed to sell the public land to help pay the national debt. We also feel that the subsidies are out of line when budgets for other resources are being drastically slashed. As an example:

FY	BLM Wildlife Budget, New Mexico
1982	\$920,000
1983	\$800,000
1984	\$250,000

6-4 A benefit cost (B/C) analysis will be completed prior to implementation of any development or vegetation treatment. Projects would not be completed if a negative B/C ratio was reached unless irreparable damage to the resource was to occur without the project.

Ms. Mary Austin

-3-

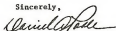
May 2, 1983

Some specific comments follow:

- 6-5 Page 1-5, 2nd paragraph. Explain last sentence "The Proposed Action is the Preferred Alternative." Should they not always mean the same?
- 6-6 Page 1-15, No. 1. Why does the permittee need to be consulted to determine "proper level of forage utilization"? This should be a management decision. The same holds true for No. 5 "Areas to be excluded from livestock grazing" and No. 6 "Initial allocation of forage for big game." Who is running this operation?
- 6-7 Page 1-16. 5-year average AIM is 227,031. At \$1.40 this returns only \$317,843 annually to the government. The 1,917 Big Game AIM are worth only \$2,683 a year at the same rate.
- 6-8 Page 1-24, Table 1-7. We compute the expensive land treatment on 30,504 acres will produce only 1 new AIM per 11.7 acres! And the new AIM returns only \$6,226 a year to the government.
- 6-9 Page 1-44, Table 1-10. Who determined the wildlife populations?
- 6-10 Page 2-3, Vegetation. It appears to us you already have sufficient vegetative data to institute necessary management.
- 6-11 Page 2-55, 3rd line. "Mining...and employs many of the ranchers." How many of the permittees must have outside jobs to support their ranch?
- 6-12 Page 3-6, 1st paragraph. Here is sufficient justification for starting management now - not after monitoring.

These remarks have been coordinated with William B. Morse, the Institute's Western Representative. Your response to the questions raised would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Poole
President

DAP:dc

- 6-5 The Proposed Action is based on information before the analysis is completed and is the beginning point in developing options available to the decisionmaker and the public. The Preferred Alternative is designated after the analysis of all alternatives has taken place. The Preferred Alternative can be the Proposed Action, any of the other alternatives, or portions of some or all of the alternatives.
- 6-6 Section B of Public Law 95-514 specifically requires consultation, cooperation, and coordination with lessees, permittees, landowners, the District Grazing Advisory Board, and state agencies. For more information on the Rangeland Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination Policy, see Appendix A in this Final MFP Amendment/EIS.
- 6-7 See response to Comment 6-4.
- 6-8 See response to Comment 1-5.
- 6-9 Because of inconsistencies noted in Appendix 8-2, forage production data derived from the range survey were not used for determining grazing capacity on individual allotments. If monitoring studies show the management objectives are not being met, the cause will be determined and corrective action will be taken.
- 6-10 See response to Comment 6-9.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VI
1301 ELM STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

14 June 1983

Daniel C. B. Ratnbun
District Manager
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Mr. Ratnbun:

We have completed our review of the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on proposed mineral leasing and range-land management in the Las Cruces and Lordsburg Resource Areas, New Mexico.

The following comments are offered for your consideration:

In reference to Appendix B-1, pages B-5 and B-6, we suggest the following modification be made to the criteria on herbicide selection.

- 7-1 a. To Criteria No. 1, the stipulation should note that herbicides proposed for use must not be prohibited by either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) or the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).
- 7-2 b. To Criteria No. 5, the statement should indicate that herbicides proposed for use must be registered by the U.S. EPA and the NMMA.
- 7-3 c. An additional stipulation should be included indicating that the NMMA restricted use regulations, "Regulatory Order No. 9", will be consulted prior to any herbicide application.

We classify your Draft Environmental Impact Statement as LD-1. Specifically, we have no objection to the proposed action as it relates to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) legislative mandates. The statement contained sufficient information to adequately evaluate the possible environmental impacts which could result from project implementation. Our classification will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our responsibility to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

7-1 See revised Draft page B-5 (Final page 123).

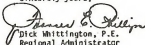
7-2 See revised Draft page B-6 (Final page 124).

7-3 See response to Comment 7-2.

Definition of the categories are provided on the enclosure. Our procedure is to categorize the EIS on both the environmental consequences of the proposed action and on the adequacy of the EIS at the draft stage, whenever possible.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please send our office five (5) copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement at the same time it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,


Dick Whittington, P.E.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

LO - Lack of Objections

EPA has no objections to the proposed action as described in the draft impact statement; or suggests only minor changes in the proposed action.

ER - Environmental Reservations

EPA has reservations concerning the environmental effects of certain aspects of the proposed action. EPA believes that further study of suggested alternatives or modifications is required and has asked the originating Federal agency to re-assess these aspects.

EU - Environmentally Unsatisfactory

EPA believes that the proposed action is unsatisfactory because of its potentially harmful effect on the environment. Furthermore, the Agency believes that the potential safeguards which might be utilized may not adequately protect the environment from hazards arising from this action. The Agency recommends that alternatives to the action be analyzed further (including the possibility of no action at all).

ADEQUACY OF THE IMPACT STATEMENT

Category 1 - Adequate

The draft impact statement adequately sets forth the environmental impact of the proposed project or action as well as alternatives reasonably available to the project or action.

Category 2 - Insufficient Information

EPA believes the draft impact statement does not contain sufficient information to assess fully the environmental impact of the proposed project or action. However, from the information submitted, the Agency is able to make a preliminary determination of the impact on the environment. EPA has requested that the originator provide the information that was not included in the draft statement.

Category 3 - Inadequate

EPA believes that the draft impact statement does not adequately assess the environmental impact of the proposed project or action, or that the statement inadequately analyzes reasonably available alternatives. The Agency has requested more information and analysis concerning the potential environmental hazards and has asked that substantial revision be made to the impact statement. If a draft statement is assigned a Category 3, no rating will be made of the project or action, since a basis does not generally exist on which to make a determination.



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF MINES

P. O. BOX 25066
BUILDING 30, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225
Intermountain Field Operations Center

May 18, 1983

Memorandum

To: Mary Austin, NEP Amendments/EIS Team Leader, BLM - Las Cruces
District Office, P.O. Box 1420, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

From: Acting Chief, Intermountain Field Operations Center

Subject: Review of Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental
Impact Statement on proposed Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland
Management in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area, southwest
New Mexico

Bureau of Mines personnel have reviewed the proposed amendment to the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Management Plan. The amendment represents a proposal by the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider constraints on energy minerals leasing imposed by existing decisions for the area. The amendment covers petroleum and natural gas, geothermal resources, and rangeland management. The Bureau of Mines is primarily concerned with the impacts this amendment would have on mineral resources and our comments will be restricted to this aspect of the proposed amendment.

The Proposed Action, the Bureau of Land Management preferred alternative, includes the following components. Of the 3,817,761 acres in the resource area, 3,132,031 acres would be open to energy minerals leasing with no special stipulations, a decrease of 12,593 acres from the current management plan. Mineral leasing with special stipulations would be allowed on 675,894 acres, an increase of 111,217 acres. There would be no mineral leasing allowed on 9,836 acres, a decrease of 98,624 acres from the current 108,460 acres closed to leasing. We believe the increase in acreage available for leasing is a favorable step for energy development in the area.

The resource area has several areas with high potential for geothermal energy. Currently, geothermal exploration is occurring east and southeast of Las Cruces. Extensive geophysical exploration is now being done in basins in the resource area. Petroleum exploration is increasing in the area based on similarities between this area and the Overthrust Belt. Exploration activity for both resources will continue during the foreseeable future.

8-1

Appendix E contains the stipulations which are proposed for attachment to leases on 675,894 acres in the resource area. A stipulation of special concern is the restriction on steep slope disturbances. "No surface disturbances will be allowed on slopes in excess of 30 percent without written permission from the District Oil and Gas Supervisor, Minerals Management Service, with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the Federal surface management agency" (p. E-4). A 30 percent slope is 16" 42", well below the angle of repose for gravel and sand mixtures and generally well within the ability of slopes to be reclaimed. This stipulation will be highly restrictive for geophysical exploration activities in the resource area. We suggest reconsideration of the 30 percent slope stipulation.

Donald P. Blasko
Donald P. Blasko

8-1 The stipulation on page E-4 is a standard stipulation attached to all leases (see Errata section page 97, Draft page E-1). A lease is not required for geophysical exploration activities; however, site-specific environmental assessments are required and specific mitigating measures are developed at that point.

Star Route 1, Box 171 M
Deming, New Mexico 88030
May 24, 1983

Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
BLM - Las Cruces District Office
Post Office Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

These comments relate to the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area.

If the numbers cited as "5-year average licensed use" are to form any significant part in future studies and decisions, the validity of these numbers must be dealt with in the MFP/EIS. The validity of these numbers, that is, the extent to which the numbers measure what they are supposed to measure - actual grazing use - is open to serious challenge. Under the threats that have been posed by frequent governmental changes, and for a variety of other reasons, large numbers of ranchers have paid for year after year the exact permitted use. Any average based on these numbers is obviously without value and a planning document that fails to deal explicitly with this problem is seriously flawed.

Whatever reason that the 5-year licensed use numbers were injected into the EIS, strong consideration should be given to removing them from the central place they now have in the EIS, and putting them in with all the other data.

There is another problem with the use of the 5-year average. BLM has sought for many years to increase the number of ranches on allotment plans. Table 1-5, p. 1-16, provides a strong argument for the ranches not to do so, not to carefully report actual use, non-AMP proposed initial forage allocation = 86% of permit while AMP allotments have a proposed initial rate of 81% as a "reward" for trust and closer involvement with BLM.

9-1 See response to Comment 3-1. The past 5-year (1977-81) average licensed grazing use indicates the forage authorized for use by livestock annually on public land. Assumption number 7, page 3-3, concerning actual use was necessary to complete the analytical portions of the MFP Amendment/EIS. Adjustments, either increases or decreases, will be based on actual use, precipitation and utilization based over a period of years, and the 1977-81 figures will not be used.

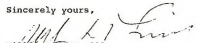
Ms. Mary Austin

page 2

May 25, 1983

9-2 Documents such as this, despite all disclaimers, have a way of putting the future in concrete. I suggest the 5-year numbers be put aside, start everyone at permit level, require all to make some effort to report future actual use, and begin the study period.

Sincerely yours,



William E. Merrill,
President, Bertoglio-Merrill Ranches, Inc. (Allotment 1006)
and Attorney-in-Fact Kipp Ranch (Allotment 1041 and others)

WLM:mg

9-2 See response to Comment 3-1.

State of New Mexico



DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

STATE CAPITAL
SANTA FE
47003

STATE GAME COMMISSION
EDWARD MURDO, CHAIRMAN
SALUD

DR. JAMES
ALLENHOFER, DE

BILL LUTTWELL,
CHAIRMAN

JAMES H. HOOCH,
SANTA FE

May 25, 1983

GOVERNOR
"DNEY ANAYA
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
HAROLD F. GILSON

Ms. Mary Austin
Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
P. O. Box 1820
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Mary:

I have reviewed the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resources Area Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement dated March, 1983. In general, the EIS has the flavor of maximizing mineral leasing and livestock grazing. I believe that other resources, from my point of view, should receive more consideration.

The following general statements are provided for your consideration:

1. Reconsider mineral leasing or livestock grazing on the following areas: Guadalupe Canyon, Gila Box and San Simon Cienega.

- 10-1 2. Evaluate Tebuthiuron as the method of treatment for creosote to determine the availability of a superior chemical.
- 10-2 3. Evaluate mesquite as a primary quail habitat component prior to treatment of any area.
- 10-3 4. Allocate a larger percentage of vegetation for wildlife cover, feed, resting, nesting and associated habitat requirement needs.
- 10-4 5. Provide for consultation with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish prior to determination of "may affect" or "no affect" decision is made concerning rare, threatened, endangered or sensitive species designation.

10-1 In 1980-81, study plots were established in Hidalgo, Luna, Dona Ana, and Otero Counties. Twelve plots varying in size and location are in place, totaling 842 acres. However, because of the nature and application of herbicides, evaluation of these plots will not be done until 1984. Secondly, studies done by Texas Tech and New Mexico State University indicate that Tebuthiuron is the best chemical available to us for creosote treatment.

10-2 On page 1-26 of the Draft NFP Amendment/EIS, it is stated that, "... prior to implementation, site-specific EAs would be prepared to analyze the site-specific impacts from projects once they are located on-the-ground."

10-3 Forage is allocated for consumption by livestock and big game. Proper forage utilization would vary depending on the key forage species and season of use; however, in no instance would it be more than 60 percent of the current year's growth. The vegetation remaining would be available for wildlife habitat needs. Monitoring studies will indicate problem areas, and livestock use can be reduced for these areas, where additional allocation is needed for wildlife food or habitat improvement.

10-4 The request for consultation on state-listed species was initiated on June 21, 1983 and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will have 30 days after receipt of the written request to respond.

Ms. Mary Austin

-2-

May 24, 1983

The following specific recommendations are made for your consideration:

- 10-5 Page xi: Proposed action, Figures under (NOL) do not agree with Table 1-2.
 Page xiii: Forage should be increased to accommodate all wildlife usage needs.
 Page xxvii: Exclude livestock use in Gila Lower Box permanently.
 Page 1-9: San Simon Riparian Area, proposed action, change to (NOL).
 Page 1-23: Proposed mesquite treatment area appears to be overly aggressive. A complete evaluation of wildlife effects should be made prior to mesquite treatment.
 10-6 Page 2-23: Fish, Gila roundtail chub, no Notice of Review for spikedace and loach minnow.
 Page 2-48: The size of the Peloncillo Research Natural Area should be reevaluated and adjusted to protect critical area.
 Page 3-9: Mosquito control, see reference page 1-23.
 10-7 Page 0-13: If species 4, 5, and 8 are included in this list, then include other species listed in Notice of Review, December, 1982.
 10-8 Page 0-14: Show the following species as "may affect detrimental": 2 through 4, 6 through 16, 18 through 22, 24 through 27, 29, 31 through 43 and 45.
 10-9 Page 0-24: Species list incomplete.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Olson
 Harold F. Olson
 Director

fm

cc: Ralph Little

10-5 The areas described in Table 1-2 overlap in several instances (see Overlays 1 and 2). More detailed information of acreage calculations is contained in Technical Report 11-4, "Calculations by Alternative for NOL Acreages and Acres to be Leased With Special Stipulations," available in the Las Cruces District Office.

10-6 This change is noted in the Errata section page 94. On January 21, 1983, a new list was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This list included the spikedace and loach minnow (see Appendix D-2 in the Draft MFP Amendment/ELS).

10-7 The species shown on page 0-13 as 4, 5, and 8 are candidate species obtained from a list received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, rather than a list created at the discretion of the BLM.

10-8 See response to Comment 10-4.

10-9 Please refer to Notes, *, on D-15, which indicates Dona Ana County information is contained in the Southern Rio Grande Planning Area Draft Grazing Environmental Impact Statement, 1981.

Cuyper Fluorspar Corporation

Box 455

La Cima, New Mexico 88004

CABLE ADDRESS: CUDGAR

TELEPHONE (505) 880-0097
526-5274

May 31, 1983

Ms. Mary Austin
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1670
Las Cruces, NM 88006

Dear Ms. Austin:

Following is a copy of the letter you asked for during our meeting at the Public Hearing in Brannigan Library.

A mineral resources inventory of the western front of the Organ Mountains prepared by the Bureau of Land Management reveals areas of critical mineral potential. The inventory was done by B.L.M. mineral specialists and a separate one by a contractor for the B.L.M. The inventory identified mineral occurrences and mineral potential.

The area of the Organ Mountains that was investigated comprises the western front and that of the eastern side related to the Fillmore Mineral system. This area embraces a swath of mountainous terrain about 8 miles long north-south and 2.5 miles wide east-west. It extends from U.S. Highway 70, in the vicinity of Organ, southward to include Fillmore Canyon and eastward to Texas Canyon.

The mineral values of the area show good potential. Among these minerals is Fluorspar, a critical and strategic mineral, listed as such on the Presidential and Congressional list of the ten most critical minerals. The Ruby property has very good potential of an excellent grade Fluorspar. The property, after initial clean up, is ready for mining. This area should not be closed off. It is too valuable to the steel, aluminum, chemical and ceramic industries. This particular area should remain open for mining and multiple use programs. Hiking, back packing, horseback trails and mountain climbing could continue. The property is well below the beautiful peaks of the Organ and will in no way adversely affect them or disturb their beauty.

Enclosed is a partial list of some of the uses of Fluorspar.

Very truly yours,

CUDGAR FLUORSPAR CORP.

B. F. Schaberg
Ben F. Schaberg, President

cc: Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Congressman
U.S. Senators
Governor of the State of New Mexico
New Mexico State Legislators
Senators
Congressman

Director New Mexico Bureau of Mines
Mineral Resources

Cuyper Fluorspar Corporation

Box 455

La Cima, New Mexico 88004

CABLE ADDRESS: CUDGAR

TELEPHONE (505) 880-0097
November 1974

FLUORSPAR

Fluorspar is the commercial name for fluorite, which is the mineral having the composition calcium fluoride (CaF₂). Its valuable properties are due to its content of fluorine. It is the only important source of that element.

Fluorspar is one of the ten most critical minerals necessary for the industrial life of the nation. It is an essential item in the production of:

- 1) Chemical - industrial and everyday household items (see items listed below.)
- 2) Steel - as a flux promoting fluidity of slag and facilitating the passage of the impurities, sulphur and phosphorus from steel to slag. It serves the same purpose in iron foundries.
- 3) Aluminum - a must in the production of hydrofluoric acid an essential raw material in manufacturing synthetic cryolite and aluminum fluoride for the production of aluminum.
- 4) Ceramics - for white or colored opal glasses, enamels (containers for food, drugs, toiletries and ornamental glassware and restaurant fixtures.)

As opaque enamels are used to cover the steel parts of stoves, refrigerators, cabinets, cookware, appliances, bathtubs as facing for bricks, tile and structural materials.

Some of the more specific uses are:

- 1) Freon - air conditioners
- 2) Teflon - cookware
- 3) High octane gasoline for aviation and automobile gasoline.
- 4) ~~Deacidification~~
- 5) Plastics
- 6) Fiberglass production
- 7) Selfcooling beverage cans
- 8) Past freezing of foods
- 9) Generate steam innermost pollution free automobile engines
- 10) Protective finishes on metal buildings, commercial and residential
- 11) Fire extinguishant
- 12) Thermoplastic for high performance insulation for wire and cables.
- 13) Finishes for fabrics, glass cloth, leather
- 14) Anti-stick applications
- 15) Dental usage and toothpaste, drinking water
- 16) Protective coatings for paper textiles, the packaging industry
- 17) Grease barrier for dry foods
- 18) Its low coefficient of friction provides uses where parts cannot be oiled in the auto industry, electronic equipment, resistant gaskets, valve parts, pipe and tank linings, flexible tubing and containers
- 19) As a catalyst

- 20) Pickling steel
- 21) Etching of glass
- 22) Cleaning metal castings and enamel strippers
- 23) Laboratory reagent
- 24) Atomic energy - to produce uranium tetrafluoride from uranium ores - the most volatile compound of uranium
- 25) Additive to building brick refractory brick and portland cement
- 26) Anesthetics employed in surgery
- 27) As vitron in synthetic rubber

Eighty to ninety percent of the Fluorspar requirement for American industry must be imported. World political and economic pressures create serious threats to already short supplies of some raw materials and places domestic production in very favorable positions.

Forecasts by both industry and Governmental studies shows an increase in consumption of Fluorspar into the next century to cover increasing uses of present Fluorine products now on the market, the new uses coming on the market and uses being found through continuing research

The price structure of Fluorspar has shown steady and continued growth over the last fifteen years. Such growth is forecast to continue.

Organic Fluorspar Corporation

P.O. 455

88004

La Cima, New Mexico 88004

CABLE ADDRESS: COUGAR

TELEPHONE (505) 525-2222
523-5521 or 526-5216

March 14, 1983

Director
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Areas of Critical Mineral
Potential

Dear Sirs:

to U.S.

The mineral of interest is Fluorspar, Ruby Fluorspar Mine. It is located on the west slope of the Organ Mountains, in the Organ Mining District, Twp. 22S, R3E. Sections 25 & 26, Dona Ana County, State of New Mexico. 28 claims are held. Some are patented and taxes have been paid for many years.

The area lies in the center of a strong mineralized zone of the Organ Mountain slope. Reference - Organ Mountain Minerals Inventory and Evaluation Project for the Bureau of Land Management, contract No. YA-512-Ct9-110 dated December 1979.

The area contains strategic and critical ores/minerals, industrial minerals, construction and building materials essential to the industrial and economic welfare of the U.S.A. as a whole as well as to the economy of the immediate area.

Fluorspar is one of the ten most critical minerals listed on the U.S. Government's Presidential, Congressional and the U.S. Bureau of Mines list. It is one of the Government's strategic stockpile items. Over 80% of the Fluorspar consumed by American industry is imported. Shipments to the U.S.A. are subject to regulations, restrictions, price control, whims of Foreign Governments and the Fluorspar cartels.

Fluorspar is an essential item in the steel, Chemical, Aluminum and Ceramic industry in the U.S.A. as a source of Fluorine.

Shipments of satisfactory product have been made from Ruby Mine. Ruby Fluorspar Mine has been thoroughly examined, geologically, in addition to surface trenching and drifting on veins, surface and underground mapping, underground exploration by shaft and a 525 foot cross cut 150 to 500 feet underground crossing six parallel veins. Vein one and another 400 feet beyond numbers six are bedding veins.

Studies of underground work and the geological structure indicate a large ore body.

Work so far completed shows a proven reserve of one million tons plus of ore averaging 30% CaF₂ (calcium fluoride). The indicated reserves are much larger.

Mineralogical studies, and bulk sampling, vein by vein, have been made, plus exhaustive mill tests have been made. The ore is free milling and easily brought to commercial grade by simple gravity separation. The final product is satisfactory

for the steel, chemical ceramic and briquetting industries. Markets have been determined and contacts made. ~~We plan to begin mining and milling and to ship within economy recovery.~~ Good mining procedure will allow back fill of waste and tailings and can keep the area in good shape with a minimum of disturbance in the area. The operation would not hurt or destroy the beauty of the Organ Mountain. It is far down on the slopes in ~~a~~ deep arroyos. In fact it cannot be seen from the plain below.

This area does not meet all the criteria for a wilderness area. There are houses and ranchettes, roads and other man made improvements from south of our mine and north to the town of Organ. There are many old shafts and the slope is pot holed with old and new diggings that would pose hazards for bikers, backpackers and riders. Studies in recent years show good mineralization. The area should be kept open for prospecting exploration and development. The area shows a lot of human activity and use.

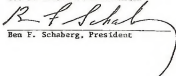
The Ruby Fluorspar Mine and surrounding properties fall within the criteria of The Mineral Resources Policy outlined by Mr. Robert Barford, Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Letters are available from Messrs Frank E. Kottowski, Director New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources, Dr. W.E. King, Head of Earth Sciences, Professor of Geology and Dr. W.R. Seager, Professor of Geology at New Mexico State University and from geologist of various companies urging that the area in question remain open for mining.

We will be pleased to make available all studies, reports, maps, analysis data, milling and market data that we have.

Respectfully yours,

COUGAR FLUORSPAR CORPORATION


Ben F. Schaberg, President

BFS/le

Enclosures:

Claim Map
Underground Map
Aerial View Map

cc:

Secretary U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Congressmen
U.S. Senators
Governor of the State of New Mexico
New Mexico State Legislators
Senators
Representatives
Director New Mexico Bureau of Mines &
Mineral Resources

Box 3AF, Dept. of Biology
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003

17 May 1983

Mr. Daniel Rathbun
District Manager, BLM
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

This letter is a follow-up to the remarks I made at the BLM hearing on the shrub control program (ref. your letter 1616). We greatly appreciated the opportunity to speak and were impressed by your desire to listen and consider all sides of the question. If it will help our position I would like to briefly summarize our viewpoint, hopefully without excess repetition of our statements at the hearing.

- 12-1 1. Our fears concerning "block" spraying of vast acreages with potent herbicides were allayed somewhat, but we must still observe that these are dangerous chemicals, obviously fairly persistent ones, whose long-term effects are probably poorly known.
2. If spray plans include any areas within 15 miles of Las Cruces, I would certainly suggest contacting the various biological sciences departments at NMSU. Very heavy use is made of BLM lands in research programs, and shrub control could easily alter or destroy these studies and future ones as well.
3. Although we did not state so at the hearing, we note that a relatively small percentage of U.S. beef production comes from arid land grazing, although large areas of such lands (and adjacent riparian habitat) have been decimated by poor grazing practices. We question the extensive use of taxpayer money to further such practices.
- 12-2 4. It still appears questionable that the long term goal—that of renewed, shrub-controlled grassland capable of supporting grazing—has ever been attained by spray programs. If it has, we would seek documentation of such successes over fairly large acreages, not just in a small test plot here and there.
5. Again I would state that the land in question belongs to everyone, and not just grazing interests. Some consider the present desert scrub to be a viable community in its own right, which is often richer floristically and faunistically than the grassland it replaced. With the current uproar at EPA over toxic waste control, the shrub control program seen an ill-timed and outlived procedure, whether or not the herbicides are EPA-approved.

- 12-1 It is necessary to make assumptions to complete the analytical portions of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. As stated on page 1-23, monitoring studies would be necessary to determine the effectiveness of vegetation treatments. See assumption 4, Draft page 3-2, which deals with long-term impacts.

Before implementation of vegetation treatments, site-specific environmental analyses are prepared. Actual acreage would be developed for each allotment through consultation with the permittee and other interested parties. If the vegetation treatment proves satisfactory and economically feasible, the acreage could be increased.

- 12-2 The Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, pages 3-9 and 3-10, discuss the environmental consequences to vegetation as a result of chemical vegetation treatment. Various studies completed by Martin, 1966; Cable and Martin, 1964; Jornada Experimental Range Annual Research Progress Report, CY 1979—USDA 1980 and National Research Council 1988; Herbel 1982 support statements made in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS on the expected impacts to vegetation.

Thank you again for your personal interest, and I hope this letter arrives before the deadline. I hope I will see you again at future hearings or meetings.

My best regards,
Gregory S. Forbes
 Gregory S. Forbes
 Dept. of Biology, NMHSU

PLANNING DIVISION
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
 REVIEW CERTIFICATION FORM

MIS 6

STATE PLANNING DIVISION
 DEPT. OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
 505 DON CASPARI
 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
 (505) 827-2673

TO: Bureau of Land Management

DATE: 5-6-83

SUBJECT: ☐ PRELIMINARY REVIEW
☐ FINAL REVIEW

☐ STATE/AREA PLAN
☒ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROJECT TITLE: Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment DEISAPPLICANT: Bureau of Land ManagementSAI NUMBER: NM 83 03 23 055 FEDERAL CATALOG NUMBER: 15 000FEDERAL AGENCY: Department of Interior

PROPOSED FUNDING (PER 424 FORM) AMOUNT

FEDERAL	\$ _____
APPLICANT	_____
STATE	_____
LOCAL	_____
OTHER	_____
TOTAL	_____

FOR FINAL APPLICATION ONLY:

REVIEW RESULTS:

- ☒ The application is supported.
☐ The application is not in conflict with State, Area-wide or Local plans.
☐ Comments are attached for submission with this application.

W. A. B. B. B.
 LEAD AGENCY REVIEW COORDINATOR

Planning Division
 AGENCY

TO THE APPLICANT:

You may now submit your application package, this form and all review comments to the Federal or State Agency(s) from whom action is being requested.

Please notify the Planning Division (Clearinghouse) of any changes in this project. Refer to the SAI number on ALL correspondence pertaining to this project.

Gregory S. Forbes
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

W. A. B. B. B.
 STATE PLANNING DIVISION DIRECTOR

June 4, 1983
 DATE

6/1/83
 DATE

Approved: July, 1979
 Secretary, DFA

Write to Applicant.
 Green for Federal Agency.
 Canary: BFD Copy.
 Pink: Lead Agency.
 Goldlined: Federal Funds Tracking.

PLANNING DIVISION
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE)
MIS-4
Review and Comment

TO: Mark F. Jones, EID

DATE: 3-25-83

FROM: David F. Martinez, Comprehensive Planning Bureau

RE: SM 83 03 23 055 - Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/DEIS
SAI NUMBER PROJECT TITLE

Planning Division
LEAD AGENCY

Please review and comment on the above application and return to the sender by May 2, 1983

- Does this plan duplicate any programs which have similar goals and objectives to the proposed application?
☐ Yes (If yes, please identify these programs.)
☒ No
- Does the proposed application conform with a comprehensive plan developed for the area in which it is located?
☐ Not applicable
☐ Yes
☐ No (If no, please explain in what way it is not compatible.)
- Does the proposed application conflict with any applicable statute, order, rule, or regulation (federal, state or local)?
☐ Yes (If yes, please cite the conflicting statute, order, rule or regulation.)
☒ No
- Describe any suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed application.

☒ No interest in, or comment on, this project.
☐ Proposal is supported.
☐ Proposal is supported with recommendations.
☐ Proposal is not supported.
☐ Further information needed, review suspended and applicant notified of request.
☐ Comments attached.

On the basis of my review, I have indicated my response and/or recommendations above.

Mark F. Jones
Signature of Reviewer

9 May 83
Date

Approved July, 1979
Secretary, DFA

Environmental Review Council
Title

Environmental Improvement Div.
Agency

1-white to applicant
1-yellow SPO copy
1-gray lead agency
1-goldenrod review division

PLANNING DIVISION
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE)
MIS-4
Review and Comment

TO: Anita Hisenberg, Energy and Minerals Department

DATE: 3-25-83

FROM: David F. Martinez, Comprehensive Planning Bureau

RE: SM 83 03 23 055 - Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment DEIS
SAI NUMBER PROJECT TITLE

Planning Division
LEAD AGENCY

Please review and comment on the above application and return to the sender by May 2, 1983

- Does this plan duplicate any programs which have similar goals and objectives to the proposed application?
☐ Yes (If yes, please identify these programs.)
☒ No
- Does the proposed application conform with a comprehensive plan developed for the area in which it is located?
☐ Not applicable
☐ Yes
☐ No (If no, please explain in what way it is not compatible.)
- Does the proposed application conflict with any applicable statute, order, rule, or regulation (federal, state or local)?
☐ Yes (If yes, please cite the conflicting statute, order, rule or regulation.)
☒ No
- Describe any suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed application.

☒ No interest in, or comment on, this project.
☐ Proposal is supported.
☐ Proposal is supported with recommendations.
☐ Proposal is not supported.
☐ Further information needed, review suspended and applicant notified of request.
☐ Comments attached.

On the basis of my review, I have indicated my response and/or recommendations above.

Anita Hisenberg
Signature of Reviewer

5/1/83
Date

Approved July, 1979
Secretary, DFA

LEW - ECMD
Title

ECMD
Agency

1-white to applicant
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PLANNING DIVISION
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
MIS-4
Review and Comment

DATE: 1-25-83

TO: S.E. Reynolds, State Engineer
Water Resources Division

FROM: David F. Martinez, Comprehensive Planning Bureau

RE: NM 83 03 23 055 - Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment DEIS
SAI NUMBER PROJECT TITLEPlanning Division
LEAD AGENCYPlease review and comment on the above application and return to the sender by May 2, 1983

- Does this plan duplicate any programs which have similar goals and objectives to the proposed application?
☐ Yes (If yes, please identify these programs.)
☒ No
- Does the proposed application conform with a comprehensive plan developed for the area in which it is located?
☒ Not applicable
☐ Yes
☐ No (If no, please explain in what way it is not compatible.)
- Does the proposed application conflict with any applicable statute, order, rule, or regulation (federal, state or local)?
☐ Yes (If yes, please cite the conflicting statute, order, rule or regulation.)
☒ No
- Describe any suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed application.
None

☒ No Other Comments or comment on this project.☐ Proposal is supported.☐ Proposal is supported with recommendations.☐ Proposal is not supported.☐ Further information needed, review suspended and applicant notified of request.☐ Comments attached.

On the basis of my review I have indicated my response and/or recommendations above.

Signature of Reviewer

Chief of Water Use and Reports
Title

April 14, 1983

State Engineer Office
AgencyDate
Approved July, 1979
Secretary, DFA

1 - white - to applicant
1 - yellow - SPU copy
1 - pink - lead agency
1 - green - review division

MEMORANDUM

June 2, 1983

TO: David F. Martinez, Comprehensive Planning Bureau, Planning Division

FROM: Francis G. West, Chief, Water Use & Reports Section, State Engineer's Office

SUBJECT: NM 83 03 23 055 - Bureau of Land Management Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement on Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area

Reference is made to my April 14, 1983 comments on the subject statement (copy of completed form MIS-4 attached). It has been brought to my attention that beginning at page 3-42 the following appears in the Statement under Proposed Action (PA):

"Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC

Management objectives for the proposed ACEC are intended to maintain the aquatic and cliff habitats, the scenic and recreation values, and the water quality and quantity. Under the special management requirements, no new rights-of-way would be granted, a No Surface Occupancy stipulation would be placed on energy minerals leasing, and the ACEC would be closed to locatable mineral entry.

Maintaining the water quantity would have a beneficial impact on the loach minnow and spinedace, both state-endangered and Federal candidate species. Raptors and bats, which both use the cliffs, would be protected from harassment under the management restrictions. Denying rights-of-way would help maintain water flow in the Middle Box and this would sustain downstream riparian vegetation, including that of the Gila Lower Box. Riparian vegetation is adapted to and dependent on flooding (Bureau of Reclamation 1981)."

13c-1

The Corner damsite now under detailed study by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is located within the Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC area. The Environmental Impact Statement does not acknowledge the Bureau's Upper Water Supply Study being conducted pursuant to Public Law 90-537, Colorado River Basin Project Act, and does not address the impact the proposed action would have on the authorized project.

To the extent that the proposed action would impact negatively on the Bureau of Reclamation project, the New Mexico State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission recommend that the proposed Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC be deferred.


Francis G. Must

esj

13-1 See response to Comment 1-2.

SECTION IV - REMARKS

MIS 1

STATE SUPPLEMENT TO STANDARD FEDERAL FORM 424

1. Is continuation of program anticipated?
Yes ☒ No ☐ Unknown ☐
2. Source of funds: ☒ direct from the federal government ☐ indirect through an intermediary. If indirect, specify source: _____
3. Have you applied for any other funds for this project: Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, please list: _____
4. Number of positions that will be funded by this program/grant. Total positions 2
How many permanent status: 2 How many term status: 0
5. Estimate the total personnel costs including benefits for the program/grant for the current year: \$ 0
next year: \$ 0
6. Will subgrants be made under this program/grant? Yes ☐ No ☒
7. Is a State Plan required: Yes ☐ No ☒ Is a Regional Plan required: Yes ☐ No ☒ Is a City Comprehensive Plan required: Yes ☐ No ☒
8. List the Sub-state Clearinghouses to which this application has been submitted for review:
____ San Juan Regional Committee _____ North Central New Mexico Economic Development
____ Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments _____ District
____ McKinley Area COG _____ Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development
____ Eastern Plains Council of Governments _____ District
____ Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments ☒ Southern Rio Grande Council of Governments
9. Are there matching requirements: Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, indicate
____ % Federal _____ % State _____ % Local
10. Are the matching ratios expected to change in future years:
____ Yes ☒ No ☐ Indicate expected changes: State Increase _____, State Decrease _____
Local Increase _____, Local Decrease _____
11. Is indirect Cost Recovery allowed under this program/grant:
____ Yes ☒ No ☐ Does your entity have an indirect cost recovery plan that covers this grant:
Yes ☐ No ☒
12. Source of Funds for Matching:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| STATE: | MUNICIPAL: | COUNTY: |
| General Fund _____ | General Fund _____ | General Fund _____ |
| Dedicated Funds _____ | Dedicated Funds _____ | Dedicated Funds _____ |
| Other _____ | Other _____ | Other _____ |

Approved July, 1978
Secretary, DFA



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region
Three

517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Date: 1950

JUN 07 1983

Mr. Daniel Rathbun
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

Review of your Environmental Impact Statement to the Management Framework Plan Amendment on Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area has been made. We have no comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review the statement.

Sincerely,

James C. Overbay
JAMES C. OVERBAY
Deputy Regional Forester





MINERALS EXPLORATION COALITION

Minerals Advocate
in Public Policy
12640 New Cedar Drive
P.O. Box 15638
Denver, Colorado 80215
303-989-5507

June 8, 1983

Mary Austin
BLM, Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

These comments constitute the response of the Minerals Exploration Coalition (MEC) to the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area. The MEC is a coalition of exploration companies and individuals conducting exploration on federal lands.

In view of the fact that wilderness areas designated after December 31, 1983, will be withdrawn from appropriation under the mining and leasing laws, we believe that all areas with mineral and energy potential should be excluded from wilderness designation, even though no economic deposit is now known. The withdrawal limitations will preclude the collection of new data, and new areas of mineral potential will not be found. With new discoveries effectively stopped, the policy of excluding all currently known mineral potential from wilderness should be followed, so that exploration of these areas will not be restricted and minerals might yet be produced. Explorationists tend to look at the long term because the lead time of discovery may be ten to fifteen years. The impact of wilderness on minerals should be assessed over the long term (a century or more). We believe that land use decisions should be in conformity with the policy statements made in the National Minerals

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Englewood, Colorado

Page 2
Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFLPA/EIS
5/8/83

Program Plan and Report to Congress released by the President in April, 1982.

MEC opposes additional land withdrawals from mineral entry. This is an unnecessarily restrictive alternative for land management. We believe that exploration for minerals can be conducted within the framework of stipulations prescribed by operating plans.

The Minerals Exploration Coalition thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this draft management framework plan amendment and environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

John D. Wells

John D. Wells, Jr.
President
MINERALS EXPLORATION COALITION

JDN/ht

COMMENTS FROM THE LAS CRUCES DISTRICT GRAZING ADVISORY BOARD

March 24, 1983

April 22, 1983

Excerpts from minutes:

The summary of proposed action on the LC/L Draft MFP-A/EIS was discussed as pertaining to energy minerals leasing and range. Walt Greenan and Bob Jones expressed concern that some allotments would be reduced in

AUM's. It was moved and seconded to add to the text of page 1-16, "Before adverse decisions are made, each adversely affected operator will be contacted and the 'Section B' consultation Policy (Appendix A of

16-1 the LC/L Draft MFP/EIS) will be followed." Similar wording would be inserted into the summary in the sentence at the bottom of page xi. It was also recommended that the revised Section B Policy (dated March 1983) be added (not substituted for Appendix A) and made a part of the document. The comment period is March 18 - June 16, 1983.

16-2 Mike Bodenchuk asked if the categorization would be done before the monitoring was started and Dan Rathbun replied that it would. He then asked if the categorization was protestable. Walt Greenan replied that the categorizations are proposed and if the allottee does not agree with the category his allotment has been put in, he should let the Bureau of Land Management know. Reuben Pankey stressed that the protest be in

16-1 See revised Draft Summary page xlii (Final page ix) and Draft page 1-16 (Final page 103). The revised Section B Rangeland Consultation Policy (dated June 10, 1983) is located in Appendix A-1 of this Final MFP Amendment/EIS.

16-2 The categorization of allotments is a negotiable matter between the permittee and the Area Manager during the consultation process; however, the categorization itself is not subject to protest or appeal.

16-2 Form of a written communication in order that it be made a part of the
(cont.) case file.

Walt Greenman, Board member, said he had several questions of concern on the MFP/EIS.

There was some discussion of Forage Value Class Group (B-9) versus Ecological Condition Class (B-11). Thor Stephenson, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, stated that ecological condition per se does not apply to range condition that a ranch has. It was agreed that on page B-11, there was need for expansion in the last paragraph to discuss different uses in the term "condition". Also needed was additional text to B-11 which advises caution in the literal use of the terms "good/fair/poor/excellent" and interchanging the concept of ecological range condition with the general condition of an area, i.e., "Ecological condition by itself does not necessarily describe the productivity of the site or indicate its value for the grazing on livestock or other management objectives" and "Climax might not necessarily be the most desirable plant community to meet the objectives."

16-3
16-4 The definition of the word "digitizing" used on page B-7, will be added to the Glossary.

Page 3-92, last paragraph, line 4: "In the short-term, readjustments of grazing privileges from preference to the worst case situation would reduce the valuation of BLM grazing permits for borrowing purposes by 22 percent." Walt Greenman felt that the statement pretty well correlated

16-3 See revised Draft page B-11 (Final page 127).

16-4 The word "digitizing" has been added to the glossary. See Errata section, page 98.

with the figure of the 5-year average which was proposed in the table of proposed actions.

Page 3-45, second paragraph, bottom of paragraph, states, "Systems such as rest during alternate years do not provide enough recovery time for grasses to regain vigor, seed, and establish new seedlings." Walt Greenan questioned the validity of this statement. His experience had shown that anytime you let a plant rest for year, you've helped that plant. Also stated on page 3-45, second paragraph, is the sentence,

16-5 "Possible grazing management treatments that could be" Walt Greenan asked what treatments they were talking about. He continued to say that at the experimental range at Capitan, it has been shown that continuous grazing is not necessarily detrimental to the range. He felt that you could get new seedlings established even if you have cattle on the range. He did not agree with the statement.

16-6 In reference to page 3-6, first paragraph, line 6: "Most grazing studies in the southwest show a need for a change in management, along with proper stocking rates, in", Walt Greenan thought it would depend on what particular allotment or ranch had been studied. He did not feel that the word "most" should be used.

16-7 Walt Greenan stated he would like to see the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum to All Field Offices, subject "Policy and Procedures for Implementing Cooperative Management Agreements" added as an appendix to the EIS.

16-5 This change is noted in the Errata section, page 95. For further clarification, see Draft page 3-45, first full paragraph, second sentence. Possible grazing management treatments are found on page 1-22 of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

16-6 This change is noted in the Errata section, page 95.

16-7 The Policy and Procedures for Implementing Cooperative Management Agreements has been added to Appendix A of this Final MFP Amendment/EIS.

16-8 The most current consultation policy should be included in the final document as Appendix A.

16-9 On page F-19, it was recommended that the District add a date (1981) and add specific reference to B-11; on B-7 and F-23, add date of inventory; in the Glossary, add definition of "crucial habitat".

16-10 In the Summary, page xiii, and in Proposed Action, Chapter 1, page 1-17, members asked that BLM indicate the analysis deals exclusively with AUMs on public land. Private and state lands grazed in common with public lands would also be affected. Also, this should be added as a footnote to F-1 Table.

16-8 See response to Comment 16-1.

16-9 See revised Draft pages B-7 (Final page 125) and F-23 (Final page 138). The term "crucial habitat" has been added to the Glossary. See Errata section, page 98.

16-10 See revised Draft pages xiii (Final page ix), 1-17 (Final page 104), and F-1 through F-5 (Final pages 133 to 137).

June 11, 1983

Statement concerning the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement by Rita and Junaloo Hill, Shakespeare Ranch

Your Draft Management Framework Plan for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area contains so many words I find it difficult to know where to start with criticism of any certain section. The biggest disagreement I have with the study is that it is not extensive enough. I realize that limited finances forced you to limit your issues to grazing and energy minerals. However you cannot look at only two of the activities which affect land and vegetation, ignore all the rest, and then come up with any realistic view of the future.

The most serious omission in your Impact Statement is consideration of the off-road vehicle. Perhaps it could be added to the section where the impact of population growth caused by energy minerals activities is taken up. A certain percentage of any group of people seems to think that tearing up land in a four-wheel-drive is a legitimate form of recreation and when people are employed by an industry which exists by tearing up the surface of land to get at the valuable materials underneath, then an even larger number will be heedless and destructive in their off duty hours. Any mining industry makes miles of roads and these roads are permanent. Traffic on them will continue whether or not they are officially abandoned.

17-1 The purpose of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS was to analyze the impacts of energy minerals leasing and the implementation of a rangeland management program. Issues other than Energy Minerals Leasing or Rangeland Management are discussed in existing Management Framework Plans.

17-2 Please refer to Draft page 3-68, third paragraph, for a discussion of increased access as a result of energy minerals activity. The impacts of increased access on vegetation are discussed on page 3-4 (paragraphs 4 and 5), for soils on page 3-20 (paragraph 6) and page 3-21 (paragraphs 1 and 2), for wildlife on page 3-26 (paragraphs 1, 2, and 3), and for livestock grazing on page 3-44 (paragraphs 2 and 4).

17-3 On page 1-14, it is stated that "Roads are abandoned and rehabilitated. Disturbed sites are usually prepared to provide a suitable seedbed for reestablishing vegetation. Water bars and terraces are constructed as needed to prevent erosion."

Statement, Alta & Janaloo Hill page 2

17-4 Another cause for off-road vehicle travel is hunting and if the wildlife populations increase as you project, then the Game Department will issue that many more licenses and of course these hunters will have to travel all the old roads and make new ones.

We are particularly concerned with off-road vehicle destruction because we see so much of it. It is like a blight spreading out from Lordsburg, denuding one hillside after another, making barren racetracks out of tabosa flats. And these will never come back unless extensive work can be done making terraces over each road and then maintaining them too. In fact, I feel that in your

17-5 Impact Statement you are much too optimistic about the "rehabilitation" of land. I have looked closely at gravel pits, pipelines, etc. Once the topsoil is removed it is doubtful that new grass can be established. In 1972-73 Brown Construction made a gravel pit on our State land. When they abandoned it they sprayed it with native grass seed and mulch and then dragged it. To help out, it even ruined that year and we did not use the pasture at all that year and only a short time the next year. Even so, I have to search far and wide to find the few bunches of grass which managed to survive.

17-6 The BLM and the mining industry (copper as well as energy minerals) should honestly recognize that most of the surface damage done by mining operations is permanent--or permanent as far as we are concerned since neither we nor the BLM will be around in 200 years to see the long term results of "rehabilitation." The cow brute eats the top of the plant and that is replaced next year if it rains. The miner and the off-road vehicle driver take from the soil itself and that is not replaced for a very long time and perhaps

17-4 Deer and general hunting licenses are unlimited and the numbers issued do not relate to changes in wildlife populations. The new state regulation restricting off-road vehicle travel prohibits hunters from driving off established roads other than to retrieve downed game. This regulation applies to Federal, state, and private lands, and it applies to all licensed hunters and to all persons who drive vehicles bearing a licensed hunter or hunters.

17-5 See responses to Comments 17-2 and 17-3.

17-6 See responses to Comments 17-2 and 17-3.

Statement, Hita & Jannaloo Hill page 3

never.

We have no large quarrel with the reduced livestock numbers
 perings because we are not hit very hard. We do think it wrong
 to cut stocking rates permanently on the basis of the past five
 year average. There have been some very bad droughts this last
 five years. We were glad to hear at the meeting that no final
 cuts will be made without further hearings and opportunities for
 appeal.

Robert J. Jannaloo Hill
 Hita and Jannaloo Hill
 Shakespeare Ghost Town and Ranch
 Box 253
 Lordsburg, N.M. 88045

17-7 See response to Comment 3-1.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO



Department of Agriculture

GOVERNOR'S CABINET

TONEY ANAYA
GovernorDR. WILLIAM P. STEPHENS
SecretaryBox 3189, NMSU Campus
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
Phone: (505) 646-3327

June 10, 1983

Ms. Mary Austin
MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
P. O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

This letter is to serve as official comment on the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Cruces-Lordsburg Resource Area.

We wish to commend the Bureau on the quality of this document. It is one of the best of the grazing EIS's we have reviewed. Our comments deal with both general assessments and specific technical areas which we feel need additional attention.

In general we support combining several of the alternatives to achieve an integrated range management program. The National Environmental Policy Act, with which this document was prepared to comply, allows for such combinations to be made. We believe there are beneficial actions under several alternatives including: The Proposed Action, No Action, Maximization of Energy Mineral Leasing and Livestock Forage Production (MAX) alternatives.

18-

The Bureau, in our opinion, has negatively biased the No Action alternative by not recognizing any current level of improvement. For example, on page xvii of the EIS, it is stated that "impacts to vegetation . . . livestock grazing . . . and other land uses would be minimal or non-existent." Yet on page xxi the second through seventh paragraphs contradict that statement. To our knowledge there are no trend data which support the contentions on page xxi. These assumptions bias the viability of the No Action alternative.

For the range program, we believe current policies and regulations (an example of such are the Grazing Regulations and the Livestock Grazing Management Policy) provide for adequate representation of the rangeland improvement process. In our opinion, actions under these policies and regulations would occur under implementation of a No Action alternative. To a certain extent, the Proposed Action alternative provides for similar actions and we find little

18-1 The minimal or nonexistent impacts on vegetation and livestock grazing noted on page xvii refer to the impacts as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative for the Energy Minerals issue. Page xxi refers to the impacts on vegetation and livestock grazing as a result of implementing the No Action Alternative for the Rangeland Management issue.

A series of photographs taken at the same photo points in 1951, 1962, and 1983 within the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area indicate that what is stated is true; rangeland condition is indeed deteriorating under the present level of grazing use.

Ms. Mary Austin
June 10, 1983
Page 2

difference between our interpretation of a No Action alternative and the Proposed Action alternative. We believe, however, that the alternative chosen should be titled "No Action" to alleviate confusion and the perception of a mandatory change. The following recommendations, therefore, are based upon the existing policies and regulations:

1. All actions affecting the grazing program be conducted in the spirit of cooperation, consultation and coordination as required by the Public Rangeland Improvement Act (PL-96-514) and the New Mexico BLM Rangeland Consultation, Cooperation and Coordination Policy.
2. All allotments be categorized per the Livestock Grazing Management Policy with guidance from the Las Cruces District Grazing Advisory Board. These recommendations follow the Proposed Action alternative.
3. No adjustments from preference be initiated by the Bureau without adequate monitoring data. To facilitate this, the No Action alternative decision process will need to be incorporated for the first 3 to 5 years.
4. Any rangeland improvement projects identified in the MAX alternative be considered viable projects should they be identified in the consultation process. These projects should be incorporated into the planning process as money and manpower are available.

We have a few specific concerns regarding the document.

- 18-2 We are concerned that in the future the Bureau may utilize ecological range condition as an indicator of productivity and a measurement of the success of a treatment. In general, climax communities (the excellent ecological range condition class) have a lower productivity rate and fewer species than those in lower seral stages (Loucks, 1970). While we recognize the need to tie range condition to some tangible measurement, we believe clear notation should be made that a climax vegetative community is not the general objective of the rangeland program.

- 18-4 We are also concerned that the Bureau not only chose to analyze an Elimination of Livestock Grazing alternative, but also chose to dismiss an Elimination of Minerals Leasing alternative as being "unrealistic." This implies that the grazing aspects of the range uses are minor in the opinion of the Bureau. They are an important portion of the lifestyle and economy of the area, and recognition of this concept should be noted.

- 18-6 In summary, we believe that corrections should be made which recognize the importance of grazing uses, the full compliance with the New Mexico BLM Rangeland Consultation, Cooperation and Coordination Policy, and the true use of the ecological range condition concept.

Sincerely,

W.P. Stephens

William P. Stephens

WPS/nb

- 18-2 Please refer to Draft page 1-23. Monitoring information, not the ecological condition, would be used to determine the effectiveness of the treatments.

- 18-3 See revised Draft page 8-11 (Final page 127).

- 18-4 Please refer to Draft page 2-54 for key points of the social conditions associated with the ranching lifestyle, values, and attitudes. Draft pages 2-60 through 2-62 discuss the economic characteristics of the ranching population.

- 18-5 Please refer to Draft pages 2-27 through 2-29 for a discussion of the affected livestock grazing environment. The revised Section 8 Rangeland Consultation Policy (dated June 10, 1983) is contained in Appendix A-1 of this Final WIP Amendment/EIS. In ecological condition, see the revised Draft page 8-11 (Final page 127).

Mr. Mary Austin
June 10, 1983
Page 3

Literature Cited

Loucks, O. L. 1970. Evolution of Diversity, Efficiency and Community Stability. *Amer. Zool.* 10:17-26.



**SOUTHERN RIO GRANDE
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

575 South Alameda St. City/County Office Bldg.
Las Cruces, New Mexico Zip Code 88005
Ph. 523-7474 State Network No. 588-5146

"PLAN NOTIFICATION"

TO: Bureau of Land Management DATE: June 13, 1983
Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

FROM: Regional A-95 Clearinghouse
Southern Rio Grande Council of Governments
575 South Alameda - Room 220
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

SUBJECT: Applicant Notification of Receipt

Title of Plan: Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/
Environmental Impact Statement (MFP Amend-
ment/EIS)

This is to notify you that we have received your:

☐ Notification of Intent
☐ Preapplication
☒ Plan

Our preliminary review indicated this office will take the following actions:

____ Your application has been submitted to our agency and is presently being reviewed, and you may expect to receive comments by _____.
____ The review is being coordinated by _____.
KCG We do not have review and comment to offer on this plan ** other than what the City of Las Cruces stated. Thank you for sending a copy of the information to us.
____ Additional information will be needed by your office.

An indication of summary review and comment is as follows:

____ Proposal is supported.
KCG No comment on this project; however, the information is appreciated.
____ Comments attached.

If you have any questions, please contact the Southern Rio Grande Council of Governments at the above address, or telephone (505) 523-7474.

Thank you for providing our Clearinghouse with the opportunity to review and comment upon your plan/application.

THE ORIGINAL OF THE FOLLOWING
COMMENT WAS NOT REPRODUCIBLE

Rodeo, NM
12 June '83

Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
BLM-Las Cruces District Office
PO Box 1420
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

We have reviewed the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS in Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Jordisburg Resource Area. It is an interesting and very informative resource document. We hope that the following brief observations are of use to you.

We feel that the following factors need special emphasis in making proper decisions in re. the Alternative to be followed:

1. Soil: as basic to life in the biosphere, perhaps most directly to the vegetation, its preservation must be considered paramount in all ranch and mineral extraction activities.
2. Water: this is a critical resource in the semiarid environment, and its good use is fundamental to human occupancy.
3. General environment: linked to the preceding factors as two among many, further degradation should be carefully minimized for the sake of society, present and esp. future.
4. Social disruption: this should be held to a minimum for humanitarian reasons as well as to prevent political and other interventions that could adversely affect any planned program.
5. Economic changes: these are of great importance individually and to society, esp. in the current state of the economy; any potential change has to be judged and rationalized in the context of short and long-term effects.

Based on the above, the Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative appears to come closest to attaining the stated goals. One or another Alternative fulfills on or another criterion more adequately, but all have shortcomings in other aspects.

However, because of the extreme sensitivity of the social and economic factors, the Proposed Action (PA) Alternative seems the preferred option, despite some defects (as judged by the five factors listed). This is especially true in the current economic, social and political milieu. It is our sincere hope that certain modifications can be used to decrease some of the potential negative impacts resultant from full application of the P.A.

Thus, current and prevalent overgrazing patterns mean soil, water and environmental deterioration, with long term negative economic and societal effects. These patterns should be immediately analyzed, monitored, and definitive action initiated as needed. We know the issue is sensitive and complex, but for society's sake and that of future generations it urgently needs doing. To do it without serious short-term dislocations and resistance is a stimulating challenge to creative innovation!

Also, intensified practical research of the type being carried out at the Central Science Institute Research Natural Area on soil erosion and plant succession is badly needed. This type of study, using control areas to compare with areas having different land uses, gives objective values to the merits of each type of land use. Administered by an academic institution (NMHS) in this

case), the studies could be broadened to encompass other types of land, vegetation and rainfall patterns within the District.

Of course, other leasing activities will need a close watch to avoid abuse of resources and the environment. In this regard, the Not Open to Leasing (NOL) designation we feel should be used judiciously but whenever and wherever appropriate.

In summary, we think that while the EORV Alternative comes closest to fulfilling the criteria outlined at the outset, the PA Alternative remains the preferred action, subject to certain qualifications. All of the extractive activities need very careful monitoring and the institution of controls where indicated. The importance of practical research is stressed in order to get good data for appropriate programming and action.

Good luck in your pursuit of the best approach to this very complex issue.

Please let us know the results of your work.

Sincerely yours,

/s/R. T. Scholes
/s/Kathryn T. Scholes

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Scholes
Box 117
Rodeo, NM 88056

Gerald Lyda Ranch
P.O. Box 518
Lordsburg, New Mexico 88065
June 14, 1983

Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
RUM-Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1120
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a reply to the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft, Management Framework Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement.

There are three areas that I will cover in response to the impact statements:

1. Livestock grazing
 2. Range Improvements
 3. Public use of rangeland
1. Livestock grazing on public lands has been an important economic factor for the County, State and Federal governments. This land is being used for the best purpose it can be, and that is livestock grazing. The land will not support anything else unless there are some minerals beneath it. Every rancher practices good management on his allotment because it is to his benefit that the allotment produce as much as it can. The BLM of Forest Service cannot manage these lands as good as the rancher for the simple fact that they are not there enough to know the country and what it will produce. Most of the ranchers have been on their allotments all of their lives. They know where the rains have fallen and how much and where to move the cattle for the best utilization of the grass and rain for the cattle. I do not feel that any of the range conservationists employed by BLM have enough experience to do this. Most ranchers run what the range will allow.
 2. Range Improvements on the allotments should be in the hands of the rancher totally. He knows where to put these improvements without being told, and when economic conditions merit putting these improvements in.
 3. Public use of range land has no benefit whatsoever on the range land. More harm has been done by recreational vehicles, hunters and the general public in a very few years, than all the ranchers in the last 100 years. If anything were to come of this impact statement, it should be the removal of public lands from the people who would destroy the property.

I think the time has come for the BLM to realize that the ranchers are supporting themselves and the country on the land that is only suited for grazing. The general public does not contribute anything

Page 2

by running around on the land, they only destroy what the rancher has built up over the years.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gerald Lyda
Sam Cureton, Manager
Gerald Lyda Ranch
Allotments 1015, 1045, 1046

SIERRA CLUB



EL PASO REGIONAL GROUP

P.O. Box 9191
El Paso, Texas 79963

June 14, 1983

Mary Austin
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

RE: Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft
Management Framework Plan Amendment/
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Austin:

We have reviewed the MFP Amendment/EIS and conplement you and your team for a well researched and organized document which reflects many hours of work by everyone involved. We have the following comments which we hope you will consider when finalizing the Statement.

ACEC's. We concur with the proposed ACEC status for the Gila River Lower Box Riparian Area, the Gila River Middle Box Wildlife Area, and the Organ Mountains Scentic Area. All of these areas are deserving of protection.

You state that the Florida Mountains and Cooke's Range met the required criteria for ACEC status. Both of these areas are excellent visual resources. We disagree that the land status patterns in these two areas should eliminate them from ACEC status and we strongly urge you to provide them this protection.

Vegetation Control. We are very concerned about the use of herbicides for controlling creosote and mesquite. There use could have a detrimental effect on wildlife, air resources, water resources, and humans. We request that you reconsider the use of herbicides.

22- **Cultural Resources.** Many cultural sites are predicted for the area. We feel that too little attention was given to protecting these sites from various activities, particularly mineral development. Procedures should be established to provide adequate protection for these sites.

Your consideration of these comments are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

EL PASO REGIONAL GROUP
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Tom Bradford
Tom Bradford
Chairman

... To explore, enjoy, and protect the Nation's scenic resources...

22-1 Please refer to Draft pages 1-14 and 1-15 which outline Standard Operating Procedures for general protection of all resources. See Draft page 1-3, "II. Protection of Cultural and Paleontological Resources," for specific wording on the stipulation attached to all leases.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
IBWC BUILDING
5100 RIO GRANDE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79902

JUN 15 1983

Ms. Mary Austin
NFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
BLM-Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement on proposed Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area in southwestern New Mexico.

Our review of the NFP Amendment/EIS indicates that the proposed action and alternatives will have no apparent adverse environmental effects of an international nature. However, we request the opportunity to review and comment on any site-specific environmental documents prepared subsequent to the NFP Amendment/EIS for proposed actions in the vicinity of the Rio Grande or the land boundary between the United States and Mexico.

We appreciate the opportunity to review your draft statement and regret the tardiness of our response.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Baunil
Principal Engineer
Investigations & Planning Division

NEW MEXICO NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTE

875 North Hill
St. John's College Campus
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

14 June 1983

Mary Austin, NFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
BLM-Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

Given the underlying tenet that national resource lands are 99% for private profit--much of it government subsidized--and 1% for aesthetic, wildlife, hunting and hiking, scientific, and other public use and enjoyment, the Draft NFP Amendment EIS appears to be a sound, information-rich, well-presented document. We wish to question that tenet and to suggest public purposes that we believe have been seriously under-represented in the proposed allocation of land and other resources. We comment mainly from the viewpoint of this Institute's primary focus: preservation of samples of New Mexico's natural features, especially its biological communities.

We do not question that most national resource lands should be even for livestock and mineral use. It is a question of balance. For instance, FLPLA (43 USC 1701 Sec. 102(a)(3)) declares that public lands should be managed "to provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals," with no hint of a 99 : 1 ratio of domestic to natural. The proportion between these uses should, we think, have some relation to public demand. To schedule 99% of the forage on overgrazed allotments for domestic animals, charging one-third of market value for the profit of sheep permittees, is, we think, a mis-estimation of public preference. Even if livestock grazing were the sole purpose of public lands, a larger percentage of forage than is should be in reserved areas where base-line data on land capabilities could be monitored. Some reasonable percentage of that forage, perhaps 10-40% depending on wildlife habitat and hunting possibilities, should go to big game. Not only would a larger public be served but the national economy would generally be enhanced by increased recreational activity coupled with decreased range-management losses. But only 1%, not 10-40%, is the figure in your EIS for allocation of forage to big game in both short and long runs of the Proposed Action.

The "100% Alternative" (EIS p. xiv), although also at the level of 1% forage for game, is slightly less bad than the proposed action in that it adopts a wiser course toward riparian areas and toward forage improvement. Although 100% is, for us, the least bad alternative, we hardly call it "preferred." None of the alternatives presented appears to us to give a reasonable approach to management of public lands for overall public purposes. Instead of the illegal "elimination of livestock grazing Alternative" we suggest that the BLM should present and adopt a proposal worthy of the Department that claims to be "the nation's largest conservation agency; a proposal that promotes

NW Natur. Hist. Inst., p. 2

wildlife and recreation values and rebuilds the lands abused for a century, rather than keeping 99% of the land for maximal grazing and further abuse by off-road vehicles.

Most of our comments on wilderness are in a letter relating to the District's Draft EA on that subject, even though it is hard to separate those decisions from issues raised in the present FIS.

A few sensitive areas, summarized in Table 1-2, receive attention in the proposed action. It is of particular importance to this Institute's purposes to increase the protection of those areas and to add other areas, while still keeping the "preserved" acreage small within the 3.8 million acres considered by the FIS. We discuss here some key areas in which, in our opinion, EIS proposals fall short.

1. Aden Lava Flow NSA. Carry out the approved management plan, which includes control of OPM's, elimination of livestock, and other protective features. The District's complete failure to protect this area as it said it would in the several years since NSA designation bodes ill for even the few protective measures proposed in the present FIS.
2. East Potrillo Mountains. Designate and protect at least 2000 acres of these limestone mountains for natural values, as NSA or RMA.
3. Sierra de las Uvas. Designate as some kind of natural area if wilderness designation does not occur. Values and management goals in the Las Uvas WEP should at least be alluded to in the present FIS, so that this area will not seem forgotten. Mineral leasing should at least include protective stipulations, if the WEP is followed; therefore the area should appear in FIS Table 1-2.
4. Florida Mountains. Create an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect the outstanding values discussed in previous documents such as V.C. Wilderness Study Area Decisions, November 1980. Appropriate withdrawals and exclusions under the mining and mineral leasing laws should be included for the heart of the area, and OPM exclusions for about 50,000 acres--but with adequate access for fox hunters.
5. Cooke Range. Protect Cooke Peak and Cypress Ridge as outstanding natural areas and prime wildlife areas. The FIS mentions a special wildlife plan for the Range, but we find no details, and the areas is not listed on p. 3-42 with other special wildlife areas as we think it should be. A copy of our letter of 11 August 1978 to the District on the Cooke Range is enclosed.
6. Cedar Mountains NSA. Approximately 60,000-80,000 acres, if not designated wilderness, should be protected for wildlife and other natural values. OPM's should be barred and further intensification of grazing operations should be prevented.
7. Gila River Middle Box. Increase the protective proposal to include the shield NSA. This is a prime scenic, scientific, and recreational area. But for the threats of dam building we would propose recreational and natural areas here.

NW Natur. Hist. Inst., p. 3

8. Blue Creek NSA. If not designated a wilderness area, create a special wildlife area with OPM control. Trade for the two included state sections.

9. Gila River Lower Box. Increase the protective proposal to include the whole NSA, with appropriate closures of vehicle trails. Distance from vehicular approach will be the best protection of values here.

10. Gila River in general. All national resource lands along the river should be closed to any unnecessary disturbance, such as entry by motorized vehicles. Fencing should protect key vegetation areas. If management of small tracts in this way is not practical, transfer of such lands to someone who will so manage them should be considered, for instance the Nature Conservancy, which is active in protection of the Gila.

11. Granite Can. Greatly increase acreage of the protected area on both sides of U.S. 80. Close the area to OPM's and change its designation from "recreation" to ACEC or natural area.

12. Antares Mountains. Protect all possible national resource lands in this address woodland and Sonoran-Chihuahuan Desert mix. Block an overwash with trades where possible. Designate the "Wildlife Creek-Cowboy" area and the Teason Hill area as ACEC's with strict control of motorized access and with diminished livestock grazing.

13. San Simon Cienega. Fence several sections, rather than 4 acres, against livestock and devote this area to wildlife. Livestock values here--less than one cow per section--are minimal, whereas wildlife values are very high.

14. Guadalupe Canyon. Control more strictly livestock damage to riparian vegetation. If not already done, all-iterate reference to recreational development from the WEP. Strictly limit vehicular travel to the one road and its one branch.

For mention here of other areas such as the West Potrillos, Big Hachets, and Alamo Luco Mountains does not indicate a lack of interest on our part, but that we find present WEP's or the present FIS roughly sufficient, or that we will comment on these areas in responding to the Wilderness EA.

Sincerely,

Ray S. Peterson
Ray S. Peterson
Secretary

THE NEW MEXICO NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTE

A Naturalist's Organization

Box 369, St. Johns College
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

11 August 1978

D. C. B. Rathbun, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management, USDI
P. O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

Enclosed is a rough survey of the Cooke Range ~~Carrizosa~~ stand--the only Native cypress known in New Mexico. This amplifies the report to you by H. W. Zeller of this Institute, included in his January 1978 comment on your Geothermal Leasing EAR.

The Institute proposes that BLM protect the cypress stand. In particular we recommend that you:

1. undertake land trades or purchase to obtain the 84 state acres (see enclosure, p. 2) and the private S 1/4 of Section 12 (see map);
2. designate those areas plus (as a minimum) appropriate parts of BLM sections 7, 13, 18, and perhaps 11 as an Outstanding Natural Area; and
3. manage the OMA for its wildlife and other natural values.

A grander plan that I favor--but this is not necessarily an Institute proposal--would be to create a larger Cooke Range historical and natural area including (in addition) all the Natural Science Land's in Sections 13, 24, and 25; that is, including the winter-cave area and Cooke's Peak itself. This well-known and highly visible area--a biological "island"--could become a showplace for the Bureau's ability to protect and display history, geology, and biology. In my judgment the binational rarities here, such as the cypress and the proposed "endangered" *Scrophularia viscaria*, would not be hurt by a system of well-planned interpretive trails. This is quite a different situation from your Guadalupe Canyon OMA, where any encroachment of visitors is bound to be harmful.

We would be glad to try to supply any additional information that you might want on biological values of the Cooke Range.

Sincerely,


Roger S. Peterson
for the Institute

cc: A. J. Zimmerman, BLM
J. L. Hubbard, N.M. GNP
B. Conrad, N.M. Heritage
R. Gellert, NMU
B. Zimmerman, NMU
Institute directors



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

BOX 346, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

June 16, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
Mary Austin, MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
P. O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

The following comments on the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement for the energy minerals leasing and rangeland management were prepared by the Range Improvement Task Force members, Drs. Jim Gray, Jim Knight, Kirk McDaniel, V. W. Howard and Jerry Schickelanz. RITF did not review the draft MFA/EIS from a grammatical standpoint, but for general content and concepts.

As an overview statement, the RITF is satisfied with the document in general, however, there are some questions. This is only the second DEIS in New Mexico that RITF's comments are limited to only a few pages. We have been pleased with the coordination, consultation and cooperation that the BLM personnel have conducted with both RITF and the land users. We support the basic allotment management categories and logical starting point for management actions in conjunction with the monitoring studies.

26-1 Why were the technical reports not included in the appendix? The technical reports need to be included in the bibliography or the appendix.

26-2 The discussion of item 17, page 1-28 is awkward and should be rewritten. Appendix B-1 states only federally registered herbicides or those authorized by section 26.6, Public Law 92-516, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972 would be considered in the program. This statement is sufficient and should be included here. The discussion of dioxin in 2,4,5-T is irrelevant without mentioning alternative herbicides. Perhaps a listing of commercially available products labelled for rangeland and which might be considered in the brush control program could be given here.

26-3 The guidelines given in Appendix B-1 for vegetation treatments with herbicides are generally good. Similar guidelines for mechanical treatments should be given.

Chemical and mechanical treatments in the proposed action are undoubtedly high priority areas in need of vegetation treatment. However, significantly greater acreage in need of vegetation treatment is identified in the MAX alternative. Presumably this greater acreage would be considered lower priority. As such, when vegetation treatments in the PA are completed, future acreage in MAX should be given further consideration for treatment.

New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity employer. All programs are available to everyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. New Mexico State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

25-1 Document size limitations and reproduction cost considerations did not permit inclusion of background information or supporting data for the MFP Amendment/EIS. The Technical Reports are available in the Las Cruces District Office.

25-2 It was felt the additional statement was necessary to emphasize the lack of hazards to human health from chemical vegetation treatments.

25-3 Bureau Manuals 7000 and 9000 and District Office guidelines for mechanical treatment are available in the Las Cruces District Office.

We are pleased to see that some of the brush treatment is taking place in the big game herd units. Too often brush control projects focus on areas where livestock are the only beneficiaries. The resultant increase in forage production and the overall increase in vegetation diversity which will greatly improve wildlife habitat.

25-4 Rough calculations show that there will be surface disturbance on 9700 road miles. How will the off road traffic be handled later on? This will be a major impact.

25-6 Bear and mountain lion are big game animals in New Mexico. They should be included and considered in chapter 2 with other big game.

25-6 Forage competition with deer and cattle is listed as a limiting factor for bighorn sheep. The fecal analysis data may indicate dietary overlap but no evidence is given that competition exists. In order for competition to exist two organisms must be striving for the same limited resource. The information presented does not indicate the vegetation making up a high proportion of the diets is limited. Additionally, areas normally utilized by bighorn sheep are not accessible to cattle and are not preferred by deer.

25-7 Data is lacking on wildlife distribution. Surely someone knows of pronghorn herds on public land that are not included in the NMCAF 1965, 1976 and 1981 reports. There are at least three herds of pronghorn which occur on public land (partially) which are not shown on the map 2-1.

25-8 Mule deer and Coues' deer numbers are probably underestimated in shrubby habitats due to method of computing populations. (2-16)

Page 1-42

The statement is made, "The BLM, in consultation with private landowners and State lessees would influence the grazing on unfenced intermingled private and state lands within allotments. The BLM also will consult with the State Land Office, the permittees, and the private landowner when establishing grazing capacity on these intermingled lands."

25-9 To conform to PRIA and the BLM's stated "good neighbor" policy, the statement should be changed to "On unfenced intermingled private, state and federal lands within allotments, the BLM, the permittee and/or private landowner, and the State Land Office will consult, cooperate and coordinate decisions regarding capacities on these intermingled lands."

Page 2-58

25-10 In 1980, the four-county area (including the three counties for which ranch budgets were constructed) had gross incomes of \$59 million from milk cows, boys and poultry, according to New Mexico Agricultural Statistics. This estimate is based on \$2,194 per head from 13,500 milk cows, \$142 per head from 52,000 hogs, \$28.90 per 398,242 laying hens, and \$1.70 per 1.1 million broiler chickens. Meanwhile, the four-county area had a gross income of \$73 million from a gross income of \$489 per head of 149,500 head of cattle, and \$28.10 per head of 1,850 sheep. Despite these data in New Mexico Agricultural Statistics, which is readily available to the public, the document reported total output of \$3,680,475 for range livestock and \$109,271,526 for other livestock in the four-county area.

25-4 See response to Comment 17-3.

25-5 Chapter 2 describes environmental components that would be affected by the implementation of the Proposed Action (PA) or the alternatives. It was felt that there would not be significant impacts on bear and mountain lion as a result of the PA or alternatives.

25-6 Information from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish indicates that there may be some co-use areas. Therefore, monitoring studies will be established. They would indicate where problems occur and lead to corrective action. Limited space in this document did not permit inclusion of all data collected. The raw data are available for review in the Las Cruces District Office.

25-7 As indicated in the footnote on Map 2-1, only those areas capable of supporting 0.5 deer or pronghorn per section are mapped as herd units. The discussions about pronghorn on page 2-21 and mule deer on page 2-22 state that these animals are found outside the herd units.

25-8 This statement is true and the bias is noted on Table 2-8, footnote a).

25-9 See revised Draft page 1-42 (Final page 106).

25-10
(cont.)

According to Table 2-20, the dollar output is grossly underestimated for range livestock, and overestimated by 100 percent for other livestock. The values in the I-O table, if based on reported numbers of livestock in the four-county area, would result in total outputs of \$24.60 per head of cattle and \$1.42 per head of sheep, an obvious underestimation. The impacts of the underestimations on the multipliers are unknown without a transaction table.

Page 2-61

25-11

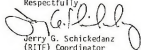
The same problem as the above, but in a different framework, crops up again on page 2-61. If, in 1980, all ranch operations in the 3-county area had an estimated \$9.9 million in livestock sales and \$7.8 million in total receipts, then how can total dollar output of range livestock in a 4-county area, including the three counties reporting sales and receipts, amount to \$5.6 million? It is standard practice in using a location quotient technique on national I-O models to go back and adjust some output and employment numbers to better reflect the local areas.

25-12

Insufficient data were provided for the linear programming solutions to permit checking the results. Detailed data in the draft were checked against summary data in the tables and no errors were found. No attempt was made to analyze the economic section based on energy/mineral alternatives.

If you have any questions of which we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,



Jerry G. Schickedanz
(RTT) Coordinator
Cooperative Extension Service

JGS/vt

25-10 Total output for Range Livestock and Other Livestock sectors was calculated using information from the ranch budgets developed for the Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFP Amendment/EIS and from the New Mexico Agricultural Statistics 1980. Total output for the Range Livestock sector was calculated by multiplying the total cash receipts for each ranch size by the number of operators. Calculations are as follows:

Ranch Size	Total Cash Receipts	Number of Operators	Total Cash Receipts
Subsistence	\$ 11,296.80	27	\$305,013.60
Small	32,914.29	25	822,857.25
Medium	78,959.58	27	2,131,908.66
Large*	420,684.37	16	420,684.37
			\$3,680,463.88

*When Regional Analytics was calculating total gross output for the large Operation, they multiplied the total cash receipts for that operation by one operator instead of 16. Please see response to Comment 25-11 for further explanation.

Total output for the Other Livestock sector was calculated by using the total cash receipts by county for all livestock for 1980. The source of this information was New Mexico Agricultural Statistics 1980, (Vol. X), page 75. The total receipts from the Range Livestock sector were subtracted from the total cash receipts for the four counties (Oña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna). Calculations are as follows:

County	Cash Receipts All Livestock 1980
Oña Ana	\$ 50,496,000
Grant	75,551,000
Hidalgo	18,524,000
Luna	18,381,000
Total Receipts	\$112,952,000
Total Receipts All Livestock 1980	\$112,952,000.00
- Total Receipts LC/L Ranch Budgets	-3,680,463.88
Total Receipts Other Livestock	\$109,271,536.12

See revised Draft pages 3-91, 3-92, and 3-94 through 3-99 (Final pages 114 through 121). Also, see Errata section page 96 for Draft pages 3-89, 3-90, and 3-93.

25-11 As stated in the response to Comment 25-10, when Regional Analytics was calculating total gross output for the Range Livestock sector, they multiplied the total cash receipts for the large Operation by one operator instead of 16. Total gross output should be \$9,950,729 for the Range Livestock sector and \$102,961,271 for the Other Livestock sector. See Errata section page 95 for Draft page 2-58.

25-12 See the response to Comment 25-1.



Tyrone Branch, Tyrone, New Mexico 86065 • (505) 538-5331

Ms. Mary Austin
MFP Amendment/EIS Team Leader
BLM-Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, N.M. 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

Phelps Dodge Corporation presents the following comments on the proposed Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment ("draft Plan") and Environmental Impact Statement ("E.I.S."): Phelps Dodge operates a major copper mine in Grant County near Tyrone, New Mexico and a modern copper smelter in Hildago County near Playas, New Mexico. The draft Plan and E.I.S. increase our concerns about the federal government restricting public lands from mineral resource use prior to a thorough evaluation of the minerals potential of the areas being withdrawn.

We do not find in the draft Plan any explanation of the rationale for the consideration of withdrawing and restricting 685,730 acres (16%) of BLM lands within the Resource Area under the proposed action for various environmental protection purposes being limited to impacts on energy minerals leasing. One might anticipate another Plan which would address impacts on other than energy minerals. However, this would amount to wasteful duplication of effort. In the usual course of carrying out environmental protective withdrawals, both energy and nonenergy mineral activities are similarly restricted or prohibited. This arises from the fact that exploration methods for energy and nonenergy minerals have similar impacts on nonmineral resources and the mining of nonenergy minerals frequently provide greater impacts than the production of energy minerals.

The statements on pages 1-3 and 4-1 suggest that nonenergy mineral impacts were not considered because of time and budget limitations. Furthermore, notwithstanding that effects on nonenergy mineral resource availability were not considered, the fact that such effects will occur is evidenced by the statement on page 3-44 that locatable and saleable minerals could not be mined if the Organ Mountains Scenic AECG is designated. Therefore, we are left with the conclusion that the

26-1 Under the Proposed Action, a total of 12,121 acres in three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (AECGs) are proposed for withdrawal from the mining and material sale laws (locatable and saleable minerals). A Minerals Resource Inventory was conducted and used to determine impacts to the minerals resource presented on Draft page 3-44. The only area with impacts to minerals is the Organ Mountains Scenic AECG. The other two areas had no significant impacts to minerals.

26-2 See response to Comment 26-1 with regard to acreage proposed for withdrawal. The Proposed Action (PA) actually has more acreage open to energy minerals leasing than the No Action (NA) Alternative. A total of 108,460 acres are Not Open to Leasing (NOL) under the NA Alternative, compared to a total of 9,956 acres proposed as NOL under the PA. The remainder of the acreage under the PA, 3,131,826 is open for energy minerals leasing and 675,979 acres are open with special stipulations. With the exception of the 12,121 acres proposed for mineral withdrawal, no other changes from the existing situation are being proposed for non-energy minerals throughout the Resource Area.

26-3 See response to Comment 17-1. If impacts were not discussed under the PA or other alternatives, the analysis either determined that impacts would not occur or that it would be insignificant.

26-3
(cont.)

proposed action will restrict or prohibit the availability of both energy and nonenergy minerals on 685,730 acres of BLM lands within the resource area, without considering the value of or impacts on nonenergy mineral supplies. Significant mineral resources and potential are without question present in the four county region covered by the Plan (as evidenced fully, for example, by the operating copper mine at Tyrone). In fact, the area falls within a highly mineralized copper, molybdenum and precious metal zone which extends across the central and southern parts of Arizona, into the southwestern quarter of New Mexico, and down into Mexico. The failure of the draft Plan and E.I.S. to address the impacts on the availability of those locatable minerals is simply not sufficient nor adequate to meet the federal requirements for planning. The Mining and Minerals Policy Acts of 1970 and 1980 mandate that mineral resources (all mineral resources, not just one component) be considered in carrying out BLM plans, whether or not the public identifies, or time and funds are available to consider, all mineral resources as an issue. By disregarding locatable minerals in the planning process, the "continuing policy of the federal government in the national interest to foster and encourage private enterprise" in the development of domestic mining and orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources is completely ignored. (30 U.S.C. §21(a)).

26-4

The BLM Planning Regulations require the District or Area Manager to collect all data for resources which will be impacted by the Plan. 43 C.F.R. § 1610.4-3. The draft Plan identified copper mining as the third highest employer and as one of the natural resource industries which forms the basis of the Resource Area economy (Plan, p. 2-57). Nevertheless, the effect of the proposed action on that industry and future opportunities for that industry is not even considered. However, there was extensive data collected on vegetation, threatened, endangered and sensitive species, cultural sites, areas of critical environmental concern, visual resources, recreation, and wilderness values. This one-sided treatment of resources in the area is contrary to the regulations.

26-5

* The only passing reference to nonenergy minerals in the draft Plan and E.I.S. appears in the discussion of geology and mineral resources (Affected Environment, pages 2-26 & 27) and social conditions (Environmental Consequences, page 3-79). It is stated very conclusively that locatable mineral deposits occur in most of the mountain ranges of the resource area, but that most of the mining districts are now dormant. The major Phelps Dodge copper mine at Tyrone is not even mentioned in

26-4 See response to Comment 26-3.

26-5 Chapter 2 describes only those environmental components that would be affected by the implementation of the PA or the alternatives.

this context. No other evaluation of base metal mineralization (for example, where the deposits occur or are most likely to occur, and the value and potential of that resource versus other commodities and uses) occurs anywhere in the draft Plan. While we are dismayed that locatable mineral deposits and mineral prospects located within that region are all but ignored in the planning process, we also question the unexplained and cursory conclusion that the occurrences are not feasible to mine. Even "smaller" deposits which were once considered sub-economic or just non-profitable to mine at current economic prices and with common metal extraction methods are now being reviewed in a new light. Recent and predictable future technological breakthroughs in processing of low-grade ores through particle agglomeration, heap leaching and other methods have made low-grade ores and tailings, previously regarded as uneconomic, now capable of profitable development. As a result of development in technology, the major ore minerals located in these areas may be economically viable mining projects that can be undertaken by both large mining companies and small groups of entrepreneurs, alike. These factors must be addressed in the plan.

26-5
(cont.)

Having ignored the base metal mineralization of the area in the planning process, in discussing social conditions, the Plan characterizes mining companies' concern about planning decisions affecting the use of land as being simply that "[m]ineral production represents a good and its obstruction an evil." (Plan at 3-79.) This representation that the entire mining industry is disinterested in other environmental and natural resource concerns is unfounded, highly unjust and inexcusable. An example of Phelps Dodge's efforts in assisting a worthwhile environmental project in the very area being studied by this report was the donation less than two years ago of a conservation easement in Grant County to the Nature Conservancy for the protection of vegetation, bird and animal life. (See July, 1981 article enclosed.)

26-6

The absence of any treatment of base and locatable minerals, except for short and cursory negative treatment, must be corrected in any final land management plan. The benefits derived from exploration and development of the minerals resources and the possible compatibility of such activities with other planned uses must be addressed. The absence of necessary mineral data requires correction in the BLM's evaluation and recommendations for any final plan.

26-7

The benefits of exploration and development even of energy resources have not been fully addressed and

26-8

26-6 The Harbridge House study indicated that attitudes generally center around occupation and interest. The discussion on page 3-75 does not pertain to any one individual or company, but was a generalization about mining interests' attitudes, concerns, and issues potentially impacted by the PA or other alternatives.

26-7 See response to Comment 26-3.

26-8 Draft pages 3-88 through 3-92 discuss the economic impacts and pages 3-43 and 3-44 discuss the geology and mineral resources impacts as a result of the Energy Minerals issue. The absence of discussion of impacts indicates that analysis either determined that an impact would not occur or that it would be insignificant.

26-8
(cont.)

neither have the costs of prohibiting or effectively prohibiting energy minerals development on a large number of acres of BLM land been explored. Indeed, in some instances it is expressly noted that energy minerals may be present in non-leasable or restricted-lease areas. Yet, no concern or weighing of benefits and costs of leasing versus the benefits and costs of not leasing for restricted leasing) are set forth; instead, non-leasing or restricted leasing on 685,730 acres is the recommended result in the Proposed Action. Even the discussion of the maximization of energy minerals alternative addresses minerals in a negative sense without weighing the benefits associated with leasing all the BLM lands.

26-9

The Plan identifies the following areas as having different impacts as to each of the alternatives and proposed plan suggested: water resources, wildlife, cultural resources and other land uses. These categories, without exception, look at impacts only in a negative sense as far as minerals development is concerned. The negative treatment afforded energy minerals is displayed, for example, in the discussion of assessments of impacts upon cultural resources. For example, it is stated conclusively under the Proposed Action that a number of protective stipulations on 671,491 acres is necessary to protect an "anticipated" 20,984 cultural sites from potential surface disturbance. (This "anticipated" number is recited, although it is concluded in the immediately preceding paragraphs that there has not been enough activity in the "boot heel" and Denning areas even to estimate site density.) It is noted that the sites' "significance and extent cannot be predicted at this time" although a few of the sites "would be near potential oil and gas and geothermal exploration areas." (Plan, p. 3-60.)

26-10

In short, while acknowledging the energy minerals potential, hundreds of thousands of acres would be effectively withdrawn from such exploration because cultural sites might exist and, if so, might have some value or significance. Additionally, in discussing the alternative of maximizing energy minerals (and, as usual, with the potential benefits of such maximization totally ignored), the only potential detrimental effect of that alternative as far as cultural resources is concerned is the identification of three areas which might be affected: Ft. Cummings (potential disturbance), Old Town (increased opportunity for vandalism) and Massacre Peak Petroglyph Site (potentially increasing vandalism). (Plan, p. 3-60 & 61.) Why, if those are the only areas (and comprising less than 10,000 acres) requiring protection for cultural resources, and presumably making the maximization of energy minerals

26-9 The use of Assumption 4, page 3-2, concerning the lack of precision in predicting impacts, was necessary to complete the analytical portions of the document. Because site density information was not available, an estimation of the number of sites was made based on the number of known sites in the area, the acres surveyed, and the total acreage in the area. A stratified random sample based on vegetation types, landforms, and water sources would probably indicate a different estimation of the number of sites and their probable location.

26-10 See response to Comment 26-2 with regard to acreage proposed for withdrawal.

26-11 alternative undesirable, would 660,000 additional acres be made unavailable? Furthermore, the expressed concern that cultural surveys might be done "hastily" is not an acceptable reason for withdrawing hundreds of thousands of acres from energy minerals exploration, without attempting to estimate the potential resource loss at all and without considering that most potential damage to cultural sites can be mitigated satisfactorily while allowing mineral activities to proceed.

26-12 Only negative facts are also considered with respect to impacts upon wildlife, once again with no evident weighing of the minerals potential and value for the withdrawn areas. This negative treatment is forcibly brought home, however, by one cited reason for rejecting the maximization of energy minerals alternative -- because it would interfere with "possible future transplant sites" for the big horn sheep. (Plan, p. 3-28.) Under the Proposed Action, even these possible sites would be effectively withdrawn. What evidence is there, however, that minerals exploration has or will adversely affect the sheep? What is the potential cost to society and the economy in leaving a potentially valuable mineral resource untouched and untouchable because possibly at some time in the future a site might be utilized for a non-federally endangered or threatened animal? If this reasoning behind mineral withdrawals is accepted as valid, vast areas of public lands in the Western United States could be withdrawn from mineral entry merely because of the possibility that sparse populations of animals which might be transplanted there could be disturbed if certain types of mineral exploration took place.

26-13 Likewise, in discussing the various alternatives and their effect upon recreation, the maximization of energy minerals alternative notes only that certain areas attractive to recreationists could be irreversibly degraded if energy minerals leasing was allowed. It is conceded that "these [recreation] areas are prospectively valuable for energy mineral resources" and that the "Oregon Mountains are known to be mineralized". (Draft at 3-69 & 70.) The costs accompanying the rejection of the maximization of energy minerals alternative and the possible compatibility of energy minerals exploration and recreation are not considered. Rather, it has evidently been assumed without basis that the recreationists' interests outweigh any potential benefits associated with energy minerals development. Once again, we see only the negative effects associated with energy minerals development are weighed in determining what areas will be withdrawn to protect recreationists' interests.

26-11 See response to Comment 26-2.

26-12 The future desert bighorn sheep transplant sites are not likely sites for energy minerals development because of the steep terrain. In addition to protecting the area for the future, the existing wildlife values, such as significant raptor nesting areas, are being protected. Also, see responses to Comments 26-2 and 26-3.

26-13 Please refer to the introduction in Chapter 3, page 3-1, paragraph 2. Chapter 3 is an assessment of the effects of implementing each alternative. The MFP Amendment/EIS is not a decision document. Based on the analysis contained in the Draft and Final MFP Amendment/EIS, a Record of Decision will be written. It will determine the management direction for the Resource Area.

With respect to the Wilderness Study Areas and non-WSAs under appeal, it is simply concluded that the energy minerals activities in those areas would be regulated so as not to impair the suitability of those areas for wilderness designation. (Draft at 3-75.) Apparently, no mineral data and mineral evaluation was obtained in determining that these lands will remain effectively withdrawn. The absence of necessary mineral data in the BLM's evaluation recommendations of these wilderness study areas requires correction in formulating any final plan. In point of fact, it was the same type of inadequate mineral data and mineral evaluation in the forest service's Rare II Report which prompted a recommendation by the General Accounting Office, in a report dated February 4, 1982, that such inaccuracies and limitations should be corrected so that Congress may be better informed in enacting wilderness legislation. Any land management planning must recognize the impracticality of developing land plans which simply fail to take into account the random, sparse and concealed nature of mineral resources.

28-14

It is also absolutely untrue that, as the Plan concludes, the impacts upon "geology and mineral resources" will be the same regardless of which alternative is chosen. (Plan at 3-2.) It is absurd even to say the impacts are the same when the proposed action concededly would withdraw or restrict leasing on lands which the draft Plan states are known potential oil and gas and geothermal exploration areas (Plan, p. 3-60; p. 3-60 & 70) and prospectively valuable for energy mineral resources. (Plan, p. 3-60 & 70.) These contradictory conclusions at different points in the draft Plan only serve to highlight the incomplete treatment afforded minerals resources in the planning process.

28-16

Except for the maximization of energy minerals alternative, the Proposed Action and other alternatives would prohibit or severely restrict any energy minerals and other mineral activity (either by not leasing or by leasing without surface occupancy) on a substantial portion of the total federal land area. Additionally, there has apparently been no consideration of the benefits lost in effecting such substantial withdrawals from energy minerals and other minerals locations. Yet, without recognizing or addressing the minerals potential lost, it is still concluded that "[t]here would be optimum achievement of resource potentials in the long term under the Proposed Action and that the Proposed Action would, in the long-term, meet the demand for energy minerals leasing * * *." (Draft at 3-1.) How can it be concluded that the Proposed Action would meet the demand for energy minerals leasing and achieve optimum achievement of resource potentials when the cost imposed

26-16

26-14 A Minerals Resource Inventory was conducted and used in determining impacts for the Draft NHP Amendment/EIS. The inventory information is available for review in the Las Cruces District Office. Also, see response to Comment 26-3.

26-15 See responses to Comments 26-1, 26-2, and 26-3.

26-16 For a discussion of withdrawn acreage and areas open to energy mineral leasing, see responses to Comments 26-1 and 26-2. Because the BLM is charged with multiple-use management on the public land, a variety of resource values must be used in combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. The BLM must make the most judicious use of the lands for some or all these resources over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions. The harmonies and coordinated management of the various resources must be provided without permanent impairment of the productivity of the lands and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output. Economic impacts are discussed on pages 3-86 through 3-92 for the Energy Minerals issue.

26-16 on society and the economy in leaving potentially valuable minerals resources untouched and untouchable (cont.) have not even been weighed?

In determining the economic impacts of the various proposals, the weighing of costs is limited only to the New Mexico area. The economics of the various proposals are considered in terms of dollar amounts that would be recovered from leasing and potential income from jobs created by discovering an oil or gas well. The economics go beyond that immediate area, however, and include national benefits and costs. The economic costs in restricting areas from minerals development include costs borne by society as a whole, when the deprivation from a potentially valuable, scarce minerals resource results. We simply cannot agree, as the BLM concludes, that there is no difference in impact upon economic conditions regardless of which alternative is chosen. (Plan p. 3-2.)

26-17 The acreage unavailable to mining and mineral development due to actual and de facto withdrawals of federal land is enormous. Little is known about the mineral potential of these withdrawn lands and too few, if any, field studies have occurred to yield data on the mineralization of those withdrawn lands. By virtue of the withdrawal itself, further meaningful investigation of the minerals potential of withdrawn lands is precluded, which the BLM itself concedes. (Plan, p. 3-25.) Additionally, little recognition is given to the potential comparability between minerals development and many of the purposes of the withdrawal of public lands.

Because this planning process to date has not considered minerals potential (either energy or non-energy minerals) in the appropriate manner, the proper weighing of determinations about nonenergy minerals and energy minerals and their potential comparability with other purposes for managing the government lands must take place. Likewise, whether the minerals potential of certain lands may carry such a great social and economic value so as to outweigh (or at least equal) other values in managing the federal lands, so that minerals development is determined to be the best resource for certain lands, needs to be evaluated.

We urge more serious consideration be afforded the maximization of energy minerals alternative, since under that alternative the Resource Area would remain open to energy minerals leasing and associated exploration and development. And, of course, locatable minerals would have to be included in that alternative. It is our opinion that the proper preparation and completion of a management plan in accordance with the mandates of law

26-17 Although the geographic market for energy minerals has a potential to contribute to the regional and national economies, the economic analysis indicated an insignificant contribution from the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area economy to the regional and national economies.

26-18 See response to Comment 17-1 for the scope of the project, to Comment 26-8 for economic and mineral considerations, and Draft pages 3-78 through 3-81 for the discussion of social impacts as a result of energy minerals leasing.

and the interests of the American public will result in the adoption of the maximization of energy minerals alternative, or, at the very least, an as yet unidentified alternative which is a compromise between the Proposed Action and the energy minerals alternative.

The recently mandated re-evaluation of Rare II areas that were previously recommended for wilderness and non-wilderness designation provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate adequately the minerals resources of all federal lands, although a scheduled completion in 1985 will require prompt action for timely completion. We urge that the Plan and EIS be revised to reflect the mineral resource considerations required by law and by the responsibility of the BLM to all parts of the American society.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Yours very truly,

Richard E. Rhoades
Richard E. Rhoades
Manager

enc

ARIZONA PAYDIRT, JULY 1981, p. 26

Phelps Dodge Donation Aids Gila Riparian Preserve

Pacific Western Land Company, a subsidiary of Phelps Dodge Corporation, has donated a conservation easement covering about 70 acres in Grant County, New Mexico to the Nature Conservancy for use as part of the Gila Riparian Preserve.

Located about 30 miles north of Silver City, the land lies largely in the floodplain of the Gila River.

The Arizona sycamore, Fremont cottonwood and associated riparian vegetation in the tract covered by the easement are part of the best lowland riparian woodland remaining in the Gila River drainage and provide habitat for more than 40 percent of the bird species known to exist in the state.

The Nature Conservancy is a national non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of biological diversity in the United States. The Conservancy has raised more than \$200,000 from private sources to purchase 120 acres of riparian lands in the area for establishing a preserve for the protection of the vegetation, the associated bird and animal life and for research and educational purposes.

This gift of the conservation easement by Pacific Western will allow the Conservancy to include the 70 acres as part of the preserve. "The gift of this easement was essential to the preserve and the long-term protection of this valuable natural resource," said William C. Briggs, New Mexico field director of the Conservancy.

"It also represents a tangible expression of the willingness of business to support conservation in New Mexico."

THE ORIGINAL OF THE FOLLOWING
COMMENT WAS NOT REPRODUCIBLE

Box 26
Animas, N.M.
88020
June 16, 1983

Bureau of Land Mgmt.

Mary Austin,

Although we are not sure we fully understand all of the new proposals you
are making we do and will support whatever you do.

We are grateful to be working with you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Andy & Louise Peterson

THE ORIGINAL OF THE FOLLOWING
COMMENT WAS NOT REPRODUCIBLE

213 Argumaut Dr. #86
El Paso, TX 79912
16 June 1983

Dear Ms. Austin,

28-1 I have read the EIS on Energy Minerals Leasing and Rangeland Management in the Las Cruces/Lordburg Resource Area. Of particular concern is the use of dioxin containing herbicide for the chemical control of mesquite and creosote. Page 1-26 states that there is no threat to human health in minute amounts. This is not consistent with the scientific articles presently being published. They indicate that the lower dose limit of dioxin which has no biological effect is not presently known and that it will be at least another year or more until the research is completed. It seems foolish that any chemical control of vegetation should be done on public land until such research is completed and the effects can be predicted.

28-2 Page 3-36 does not consider the persistence of dioxin in the environment and address the transfer of dioxin through the food chain into man through game animals (dove, quail, rabbit, etc.). The entire program appears to be more concerned with the introduction of pronghorn antelope so that NMFS can make more money off federal land on its already overpriced hunting licenses.

28-3 A comparison of map 1-3 with the water well applications filed in the Mesilla Bolson by El Paso Water Utilities shows that the area would be treated with a dioxin containing herbicide. It does not appear to be a good management practice to treat a future water reserve with a chemical that research is showing to be persistent and toxic.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Roger Spedra

28-1 The review of the literature at the time of the writing pointed out no significant risk of human exposure to potentially toxic or lethal dose of 2,4,5-T when the herbicide was applied under predetermined project conditions and spraying techniques. As Technical Report VI-4, "The Toxicity of the Chemical Herbicide 2,4,5-T to Human Health," points out and research demonstrates, there is no significant potential for health risk to humans exposed to the herbicide. Under constantly improving manufacturing practices and strict labeling standards by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recent samples of commercial grades of 2,4,5-T show the content level of 0.025 parts per million (ppm) dioxin. This level provides a significant safety margin well below the 0.1 ppm manufacturing specifications set by the EPA.

28-2 The only herbicide containing dioxin discussed in this document is 2,4,5-T. On Draft page 3-36, it is stated that "... 2,4,5-T persists for less than 24 hours on vegetation ..." "Because 2,4,5-T is eliminated so quickly, there is little likelihood of it moving through the food chain."

28-3 On Draft page 3-54, it is stated that "The possibility of herbicide contamination of groundwater supplies in significant amounts is remote because of their relatively slow rate of movement in soil, rapid biological and photo detoxification, and stipulations that control application near major drainages (see Appendix B-1, Guidelines for Vegetation Treatment)."



Investigation: NMI 475 1420
Publication: NMI 475 1420

New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources
Socorro, NM 87601

A DIVISION OF
NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING & TECHNOLOGY
June 17, 1983

Mary Austin
U. S. Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
Box 1420
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dear Ms. Austin:

Knowledgeable employees of our staff have reviewed your March 1983 draft of the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area, Management Framework Plan Amendment to the Environmental Impact Statement. We do have some comments on the geology and mineral resources.

29-1 Page 2-26: We wonder if the geologic structure of southwestern New Mexico is really similar to the overthrust belt of Utah and Wyoming. A recent article by Brown and Clemens in the May issue of New Mexico Geology re-evaluates the structural concepts of southwestern New Mexico. The map 2-2 might be modified to indicate that the overthrust belt is inferred and controversial. Actually the symbols on that map are reversed. The dashed line with ticks, listed in the explanation as showing the limit of the Pedregosa Basin should actually be the black solid line because the Pedregosa Basin is mainly in Hidalgo County and certainly does not occur in eastern Luna nor Dona Ana Counties.

29-2 With the present glut of oil and the slow down in petroleum exploration, it is not likely that very many petroleum test holes will be drilled in this area. To require environmental examinations for each of the drilling sites (which would take about a year for each one) may greatly decrease any possible drilling activity, particularly because many of the possible operators are independents with limited financial resources. In general, the oil and gas descriptions (pages 2-26) lacks detail and technical documentation.

We hope this will be of some help to you.

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Kottowski
Director

FEK/jv

29-1 See revised Draft Map 2-2 (Final page 139).

29-2 Chapter 2 describes the environmental components that would be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action or the alternatives. The various components are only as detailed as necessary to understand the effects of the alternatives under consideration. The Mineral Resources Inventory information is available for review in the Las Cruces District Office.

Advisory
Council On
Historic
Preservation

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Reply to:

230 Simms Street, Room 450
Golden, Colorado 80401

June 16, 1983

Mr. William J. Harkenrider
Area Manager
Las Cruces-Lordsburg Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, NM 88004

REF: Las Cruces-Lordsburg Resource Area Draft Management Framework Plan
Amendment: Environmental Impact Statement

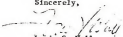
Dear Mr. Harkenrider:

On March 23, 1983, the Council received the materials referred to above. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document. It appears to give adequate consideration to the potential for impact on Cultural Resources.

Since it notes that a variety of impacts to resources potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may result from any of the various management options, we would like to take this opportunity to suggest that you initiate the consultation process with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer as outlined in the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement: Interagency Agreement No. NM50-158 dated October 19, 1982.

If the Council can be of any assistance in complying with this agreement, please contact Alan Downer at 234-4946, an FTS number.

Sincerely,


Louis S. Hall
Chief, Western Division
of Project Review

30-1 Please refer to Appendix H in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS for letters of consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Supervisor
Ecological Services, USFWS
Post Office Box 4487
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196

June 16, 1983

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Mary Austin
Las Cruces, New Mexico

From: Acting Field Supervisor, FWS, Ecological Services, Albuquerque,
New Mexico

Subject: Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area - Draft Management Framework
Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (DC 83-13)

We have reviewed the subject document and have no substantive comments.
The wildlife sections are adequately documented. We appreciate the
opportunity to comment on this plan.

John C. Peterson

cc: Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, FWS, OEC, Washington, D.C.
Regional Director, FWS, HR, Albuquerque, New Mexico

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MAY 5, 1983

The Las Cruces District Advisory Council of the Bureau of Land Management met at Lordsburg, New Mexico, on May 5, 1983. Agenda items for the meeting were approval of minutes (January 12, 1983), discussion of Lower Gila Box Objectives, Asset Management, and Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie Lee
Peggy Bogart
Mary Thompson
Tommy Perez
Oscar Syfert
Jim Richardson

BLM REPRESENTATIVES

Daniel C.B. Rathbun
Bill Lischer
William J. Harkenrider, Jr.
Mary Austin
Olana Edwards
Jeff Jarvis
Bea Wade
Donita Cotter
Harvin Jones
Joe Torrez
Linda Seibert
Valerie Essary

VISITORS

Pat Laney
Tom Anderson
Herbert Young
Lucille Young
Thor Stephenson
Joyce Syfert
Jean E. Lee
Vait Anderson
Don Frazier
Bob Langsenkamp
Erin Shay
Andy Peterson
Bryon Thomas
Bill Collins
J. V. McCarty
R. T. Reynolds
Eugene Burton
Joe Pouse
Louise Huggett
Jim Culbertson
Edmund D. Hough

The meeting was opened at 9:40 a.m. by Dan Rathbun, District Manager. Rathbun noted the absences of both the Chairman and co-Chairman. Jim Richardson, Board Member, made a motion to nominate Charlie Lee as Acting Chairman by acclamation. Oscar Syfert seconded the motion which carried.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of the January 12, 1983 Advisory Council Meeting. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Tommy Perez seconded the motion which carried.

The second order of business was a discussion of the Lower Gila Box Objectives. Through the use of a Gila Wilderness map, Rathbun displayed and discussed briefly the different types of boundaries involved within the Gila lower Box, pointing out the private, State, and Federal lands. Rathbun discussed the problems concerning the ranch of Pat Laney if the

area were to be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). One was with proposed fencing, which would disrupt the livestock operation and limit Laney's ability to properly accommodate his livestock with water since the river would be cut off. Rathbun also noted that other difficulties with the proposal of an ACEC were the cost and maintenance of the fencing, and the question of who would actually pay for it. Another problem that Laney is experiencing is the effect on the potential buyer's decision to purchase the ranch. According to Laney, potential buyers "shy away" from buying the ranch because of the present proposals being made by BLM. Rathbun clarified that BLM's goals were primarily to protect the wildlife habitat along the river. He quoted Linda Seibert, Wildlife Management Biologist, from an earlier discussion. According to Seibert, it is a very unique area and half the species of wildlife in New Mexico live or can be found in that particular area. He added that an increase in the number of trees is another one of BLM's main concerns. Rathbun pointed out that it would be impractical to try to fence the whole boundary involved. An alternative is to fence only selected sites along the river. Another alternative given by the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service is to plant large trees close together so that cows cannot rub them down. Acting Chairman Lee asked for questions from the Council.

Members expressed concern about the small trees growing along the river and their reproduction in reference to the cattle. Mary Thompson supported the idea of fencing the livestock out of the small areas on river shores in order to test and watch the vegetation growth along the river. Peggy Bogart wondered if fencing would affect the environment as fencing is man-made and not natural. Rathbun stated that the fences are not regarded as impairing wilderness values.

Laney brought up the fact that there were cottonwood trees growing substantially well in the canyon but not by the river. This was because of frequent flooding. Lee called upon two individuals from Silver City who wanted to comment. Brian Thompson stated with the Silver City Youth Center, recently discovered the enjoyments of this particular part of the Gila. He stressed his belief in keeping the area protected because of its beauty and its opportunities for back-packers and others. Bob Langenkind stated that it would be a good idea to experiment and perhaps find out the reason for the cottonwood deterioration, whether it might be cattle or floods. Tom Anderson, a former ranch manager for four years on what is now the Laney ranch, said that during his stay on the ranch, he had not seen or heard of any problems concerning the destruction of the trees by cattle. He agreed with the consideration of the smaller fenced-in plots, but stressed that the major concern should be centered on controlling the waterflow through that particular area. He noted that every two or three years, a big flood occurs which destroys all of the trees in its path. Jake McCarty, who also owned a ranch in the area, indicated he had seen lots of cottonwood trees thirty feet high completely destroyed by floods. He noted the flood's unpredictable change of direction and that it would wipe out anything in its path. McCarty stated that regrowth was very fast, but that floods would once again destroy them. He felt that anything put up by man to control the water flow would not suffice. Tommy Perez, Board Member, wondered if manually controlling the water flow would harm the wilderness area.

Ther Stephenson, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, stated that flooding was a natural part of the environment and should be left alone. Perez felt the control of the flow would be unnatural. Bill Luscher, State Director, noted the key issue to be discussed was where there was damage being done by the livestock. He felt that BLM should let nature take its course and have the floods and dry periods put the trees in and out of the area accordingly. Rathbun was mainly concerned with improving the habitat. He felt the use of the area via the roads would have a major impact on the birds and that the placement of the road would influence BLM's ability to protect the area. He noted that if a lot of people go into the area, it would make an impact and at that time, it would have to be controlled. Rathbun stated there are ways to regulate the flow of people in the area. Lee indicated the two major items which would cost money were: The cost of individuals camping out, and the installation of fences at the bottom of the river. Rathbun agreed there were costs associated with the fencing but that perhaps a particular organization, possibly someone from Silver City, might be willing to volunteer the labor if BLM provided the wire, posts, and other materials needed. There was an indication of willingness to volunteer expressed by two members of the audience from Silver City. He noted that BLM would have to regulate the number of people who entered the area; otherwise the values in the area would be lost. Lee asked for the Council's summary input on what was discussed. Bogart wanted to be careful on the site selection and to build something that would not wash out every time a flood hit. Thompson was concerned about people coming in the area once it was more publicized. Syfert felt that all of the problems discussed seemed to be solvable. Richardson showed concern about the availability of water for agriculture purposes in the entire area. Other than that, he had no major complaints or problems. He did question how accessible the wilderness would be to those in need for it once it was posted as wilderness. He felt that the wilderness was important to the youth. He showed recognition of the cost, but felt that this was offset by important values. There was some discussion about whether designation of an area as wilderness does or does not increase visitation.

Rathbun then asked the Advisory Council if they even felt comfortable in making a decision right now on Wilderness vs. ACEC. Perez felt that the majority of the Council wanted ACEC. Laney explained that it was the fencing he was concerned and uneasy about, and not the designation of ACEC itself. Perez noted that Laney was in the process of selling his ranch and that these meetings were interfering with his prospects. Rathbun stated that the final decision would be made either in September or October. It was made known to the Council that the ACEC decision was flexible, but that the Wilderness decision had more special requirements associated with it. It was stressed that Wilderness would provide long-term Congressional protection and was very strict in regard to what was allowed. ACEC, though, was approved by the State Director and the objectives and management, done locally, and thus provides more local control. Rathbun felt that BLM didn't have enough answers yet to know which way was best. He noted that he would like to come back at a later date to make a final decision on ACEC or Wilderness. He said that Congress would make a final determination on Wilderness. It was noted,

though, that it would remain as NSA until a final designation was given by Congress.

32-1

After some discussion on wording, Mary Thompson made the motion as follows, "We recommend that the objectives as modified (to fence small plots, to allow access to private lands, and to allow access to the water for livestock) are appropriate for the Gila Lower Box." Richardson gave second to the motion and the motion carried. The Council stressed that they didn't want to make a motion on the choosing of Wilderness or ADEC at this time. It was noted, however, that Perez, Bupart, Richardson, and Lee did not favor Wilderness, but they did favor ADEC. Thompson and Syfert did not feel there was adequate information upon which to take a position. Discussion also indicated that priority for management of the area should be given to wildlife, then recreation use, then livestock grazing. The Council members generally felt this could be accomplished without serious impacts on current uses. It was also the consensus of the Council that the Bureau should act as rapidly as possible to remove the uncertainty which the study is causing the allottee.

Lee recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Lee called the meeting to order after lunch at 1:30 p.m. Rathbun formally brought before the public the subject of Asset Management, which was the third order of business on the agenda. One member expressed a fear that Payment of Use of Taxes money would disappear in the future, and returning disposal lands to the tax roll would be a way to help western state counties to survive. One member felt that the Bureau needed to notify the public more efficiently and to dispose of the land as rapidly as possible. The entire Council expressed their support of the concept. It was a consensus that excess lands should be disposed of and returned to local tax rolls.

The fourth item on the agenda was the Draft Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement. Rathbun noted the summary in the front of the book. He said that it basically dealt with oil/gas and geothermal exploration and grazing. He identified all the areas which BLM would apply to open and closed stipulations, those which were located in the proposed action column.

Mary Austin, Team Leader, discussed the difference between the Las Cruces District Wilderness Draft Environmental Assessment and the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement and their roles. She indicated that they were not in conflict, but that only the subjects were different. Austin briefed the Council on the content of each chapter of the TGL Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. The first chapter talked about what BLM is proposing, the second chapter on what the current situation is, the third chapter is on what the impacts to the environment would be as a result of implementing any given alternative. Rathbun indicated that the oil/gas emergency section had very few comments while the grazing section had a lot. After general discussion on the books, Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Perez gave second to the motion and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

32-1 Technical Report III-1, "Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Plan for the Gila River Lower Box Riparian Area," has been revised to include the recommendation by the District Advisory Council. See revised Draft Summary pages xxvii and xxviii (Final page xxiii), and Draft page 3-20 (Final page 109), page 3-29 (Final page 112), and page 3-73 (Final page 113). This change is also noted in the Errata Section, page 96, for Draft page 3-99.



TED AND MONA LARSON

LORDSBURG, NM
(505) 542-8072

June 21, 1933

U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Bur. of Land Management
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, N.M. 88001

Dear Sir:

In looking at the EIS, I see that you state in Section 4.1 - "Irrigation No. 1034, that Ted and Lons Larron have a permit for preference 1960 U.S. usage. Then on the Grandest Goal by year 2010, with some electric fencing and some water storage through the implementation of the Swoyer Grazing Method, as I discussed with Bill Heston, instead of an increase, you show a decrease of 60 head or an EIU of 1047.

33-1 | is a person interested in improving range and usage,
it doesn't make much sense for me to invest money for
water storage and fencing to receive a cut in AUs.

I have attended the Milin Savory holistic school in which they recommend increasing the amount of cattle carried that would be confined to a smaller area but moved often according to the condition of the range. I have put in the method on my ranch in Matamoros, Tux Mexico, and am learning from the experience, which I feel would be of benefit to improve the range at the Bonita in Lordsburg.

I would appreciate any consideration you could give in helping to implement this method in Le Chabern. I am willing to meet and see if a mutual agreement could be worked out as I feel that it is a viable solution to the range problems there.

Sincerely,

Ted A. Larson

33-1 See response to Comment 3-1.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 427
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA 89005
JUN 26 1983

LC-154A
120.1

Your reference:
1616

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Las Cruces District Office, Bureau of Land
Management, P.O. Box 1420, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

From: Regional Director

Subject: Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment, Environmental
Impact Statement, Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area (your
March 8, 1983 letter)

We have reviewed the subject document and offer the following comments.

34-1

Discussion is needed on the conflicts between the proposed designation of the lower and middle Gila Box areas as areas of critical concern (ACEC) and Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Hooker Dam or suitable alternative, an authorized feature of the Central Arizona Project (CAP).

The CAP was authorized as part of the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 to bring Colorado River water into Central Arizona. The Hooker Dam or suitable alternative feature of the CAP was authorized to provide New Mexico 18,000 acre-feet of CAP water.

In October 1980 the Bureau initiated Stage I of the Upper Gila Water Supply Study to investigate alternative plans and develop Reclamation's proposed action on that feature of the CAP. The study is now in Stage II and is investigating the following sites for the purpose of providing the New Mexico supply: Conner damsite on the Gila River 4 miles upstream of Pedrock; Mangas Creek offstream storage site located on Mangas Creek 2 miles upstream of the mouth; Saddle Rock offstream storage site located in Saddle Rock Canyon (a tributary to Mangas Creek); and ground-water pumping in the Cliff-Gila area. The Hooker site has been dropped from further consideration.

Since most of the plans involve a storage structure at the Conner site, designation of the middle or lower Gila Box areas as an ACEC would adversely impact the potential for providing the New Mexico CAP supply.

Roy L. Kinn

cc: Project Manager, Phoenix, Arizona. Attention: 330-150

34-1 See response to Comment 1-2. Also, see revised Draft page 1-5
(Final page 100) and page 1-6 (Final page 101).



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA 22092

In Reply Refer To:
RGS-Mail Stop 423

JUN 17 1983

Memorandum

To: EIS Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces, New Mexico

From: Assistant Director for Engineering Geology

Subject: Review of draft environmental statement and management framework
plan accident for energy minerals leasing and rewildland manage-
ment in the Las Cruces/Lasburg Resource Area, Dona Ana, Luna,
Hidalgo, and Grant Counties, New Mexico

We have reviewed the draft statement as requested in the District Manager's
notice. The delay in our response is the result of the documents having been
sent to our field office in Albuquerque rather than to the Environmental
Affairs Program, National Center 423, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston,
Virginia 22092.

35-1 The discussion of requirements for abandonment of oil, gas, and geothermal
energy wells should also address requirements for abandonment of seismic
shot-holes and geothermal test holes (p. 1-14). If improperly sealed and
plugged, such drill holes can furnish avenues for impacts on ground-water
resources.

We have given only the most cursory review to the minerals data included in
this report because the U.S. Geological Survey will prepare a comprehensive,
detailed, joint report with the Bureau of Mines on the mineral resource
potential of those areas recommended as suitable for wilderness, in accord-
ance with Section 603 of FLPMA.

J. P. Doolittle
for James P. Doolittle

35-1 Requirements for abandonment of seismic shot-holes and geothermal
test holes are the same as for oil and gas or geothermal energy
wells. The specific measures would protect the groundwater
resources. See Draft page 1-14, fifth full paragraph, and Draft
page 3-50, third full paragraph, of the Draft NEP Amendment/EIS.

HEARINGS

Formal public hearings were held in Deming, New Mexico, on April 12, 1983, Las Cruces, New Mexico, on April 13, 1983, and in Lordsburg, New Mexico, on April 14, 1983, to receive public comments as to the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Six people attended the Deming hearing. No oral comments were presented. Ten people attended the Las Cruces hearing with four presenting oral comments. Nine people attended the Lordsburg hearing with one presenting oral comments. Table 5 lists those persons who presented oral comments.

The following excerpts are from the public hearings transcripts and require a response. They have been numbered and BLM's responses are presented adjacent to the public hearing comment. Complete transcripts are available for public review at the Las Cruces District Office, 317 North Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

TABLE 5

PUBLIC HEARINGS SPEAKERS

Name	Agency, Organization, or Individual
<u>April 12, 1983 -- Deming, New Mexico</u>	
No speakers	
<u>April 13, 1983 -- Las Cruces, New Mexico</u>	
David Lightfoot	Individual
Gregory S. Forbes	Individual
Jerry G. Schickedanz	Range Improvement Task Force
Walter Gould	Individual
<u>April 14, 1983 -- Lordsburg, New Mexico</u>	
John Keck	Rancher

Las Cruces Public Hearing

Comments from Greg Forbes (Dave Lightfoot's comments were similar to those presented by Greg Forbes. Therefore, we only responded to one set of comments.):

- LC-1 Now, I would some way have to challenge the contention that creosote and mesquite have no role in erosion, control, especially in this heavy sand that seems to really occur in our area. [Page 19]
- LC-2 I see this vegetation control program based on somewhat questionable theoretical grounds as Dave Lightfoot does. [Page 20]
- LC-3 I'm very worried about the overall impact on the farmland out there. I didn't really get into that aspect of it. But this is a lot of pesticide or herbicide to be thrown out there. [Page 24]

Comments from Jerry Schickedanz:

- LC-4 How will the off-road traffic be handled later on on 9,000 miles of new roads, and its effect on wildlife and livestock and watershed and the whole round of things. [Page 39]

And I think this is going to be a major impact that hasn't been addressed quite adequately in the current EIS. [Page 40]

- LC-5 We're a little in question of what does a visual resource management class mean. In looking at the map, it shows proposed visual resource management classes for the area, and I guess my question is: Just what does these mean in terms of management? Many of the areas have a Class 2 designation, which means not much change to take care -- or to occur. And I guess, what can take place and what can't? [Page 40]

- LC-6 Does that surrounding circle of Class 2 designation then also influence what's internally there? Because it is a visual classification. [Page 41]

- LC-7 Another area is the area of critical environmental concern designation. [Page 41]

In reading what some of the anticipated changes or proposed management that the Bureau would impose on the, I believe it's the lower Gila box, in terms of building fences to include livestock, to move water from the river to up on top of the mesa -- in light of budget reductions and so forth, if this classification is made, is there opportunities or arrangements -- will there be money available to do the things that might mitigate the problems that would arise from this classification? And if there's no money available, then how will these improvements be installed? [Pages 41 and 42]

- LC-8 Another item that has come to the forefront on improvements is maintenance of these improvements. This classification is imposed upon the permits, and what kind of recourse is there in terms of being forced to maintain federal improvements that, I guess, they may or may not be in agreement with? [Page 42]

- LC-9 And then another question right along with that: If there are water rights from the river for livestock watering, if that as part of the base property, then what happens to those water rights if the water then is moved up to federal water? [Page 43]

- LC-1 Creosote and mesquite hold the soil to some extent; however, treatment as proposed under the MAX Alternative show a slight to no measurable change in the short-term (see Draft page 3-22). Measurable changes in wind erosion have been found in areas of mesquite treatment in the long-term (see Draft page 3-22). Areas treated will be monitored and should indicate where erosion problems occur (see Draft pages 1-23 through 1-24).

- LC-2 See Comment Letter 12, response 12-1. The projections with regard to vegetation treatments are based on BLM test plots in existence for the past 2-3 years, as well as the various sources used in the narrative of Chapter 3 under the affected resource.

- LC-3 The New Mexico Department of Agriculture's restrictions relative to spraying in the vicinity of agricultural lands during the period of May 1 through October 1, will be followed.

- LC-4 See Comment Letter 17, response 17-3.

- LC-5 The definition of Visual Resources Management (VRM) is contained on Draft page GL-15. The VRM classes described on Map 2-8 are the basis for assessing the impacts of proposed projects on the visual resources. Different degrees of modification are allowed in each class. See Draft page 1-27, Standard Operating Procedure Item 12, for a discussion of the site-specific considerations of Visual Resources. The VRM classifications is not used to stop projects. The VRM classification is used to modify projects to accommodate the project without degrading the visual resources.

- LC-6 The VRM class boundaries are determined through evaluation of the scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and distance zones as described in Appendix I-1. The VRM class is a reflection of what is currently on the ground at the time the evaluation is done. Modifications to enhance or degrade the existing visual resources are possible in accordance with the parameters described for each class.

- LC-7 We must make assumptions in determining the impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives. See assumption 1 on page 3-2 of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

- LC-8 Generally, permittees are required to maintain improvements within their allotments. In the case of the Gila Lower Box Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the fenced areas will be Bureau maintained. See also Comment Letter 32, response 32-1.

- LC-9 Cattle will have access to water in the Gila River bottom due to a modification in the management plan for the Gila Lower Box riparian AEC. See Comment Letter 32, response 32-1.

EXCERPTS FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS

Lordsburg Public Hearing

Comments from John Keck:

- L-1 One problem that has bothered us is the fact that the Allotment Management Plan stipulated a carrying capacity in the trends, the observations as to the utilization of the forage and the basic trends that the range was in and the concept that these numbers would be followed for a ten-year period of time. [Pages 7 and 8]

This seems to be a little unclear in this Environmental Impact Statement. If this proposal is adopted as proposed, then there may be some question as to the integrity of this Allotment Management Plan as agreed upon. [Page 8]

- L-2 The next thing I would like to address is that the actual five-year utilization figures that were used in this proposal, proposed Environmental Impact Statement, might be slightly incorrect due to the combination of two allotments during the period of time which I believe that these averages were being formulated. [Page 8]

My problem is that I think -- and its referred to in the Allotment Management Plan; there was a combination of two allotments. And I believe that the AUM's were probably reported in another person's name and therefore not picked up. [Page 23]

- L-3 An example, now that I will get into statistics, based on F-4 of that manual, Environmental Impact Statement, the total public land in Luna County shows to be 560,946 acres. That is a little in conflict with the total public land as shown on pages F-20, F-22 and F-23, which show a total of the 1-allotments, the M-allotments and the C-allotments as being 527,792 acres. [Page 11]

I assume that there must be some unaccounted for acreage -- [Page 13]

- L-4 The preference shown on page F-4 of 90,178 AUMs and an actual use of 72,440 AUMs over a five-year period, then reflecting a proposed use at the same level of 72,440 AUMs, shows a proposed 20 percent cut in stocking rate for the total public land in Luna County. [Pages 11 and 12]

The proposed 2010 stocking rate is 85,962 AUMs, which indicates an anticipated 4.68 percent stocking rate cut at the time that the improvements are fully in place. [Pages 11 and 12]

Now, the thing that's strange about the proposal is that the proposed cut on this particular allotment is 30 percent for the immediate future and 11 percent by year 2010. Well, the proposal as submitted shows the problem just by using statistics and not using the total picture and maybe the total statistics. [Page 17]

Therefore, you can see my concern that we would basically be eliminating an average size ranch in one stroke if we were to go with this proposal. [Page 33]

It seems that the percentages of good, fair and poor should be taken into consideration when arriving at proposed carrying capacities and not just the actual use for the previous five years. [Page 19]

Therefore, I feel that the proposal as submitted is slightly defective inasmuch as it has just taken that one item out of context and used that as a benchmark. [Page 20]

- L-1 Since AMP allotments will continue to be monitored and additional rangeland improvements may be needed, they were automatically placed in the "I" category. As stated in the Draft, any adjustments in future grazing use will be based on monitoring studies. Adjustments will not be based on the 5-year (1977-81) average. At a time when all the needed rangeland improvements are in place and the management of the allotment indicates monitoring is no longer necessary, the AMP allotment may be placed in the "M" category.

- L-2 See revised Draft page F-3 (Final page 135).

- L-3 The totals found on page F-20, F-22, and F-23 include only part of the section 15 lease acres. The acres on the rest of the section 15 lands are not included.

- L-4 See Comment Letter 3, response 3-1. See Draft NHP Amendment/EIS pages 1-24 and 1-25 for a discussion of monitoring information to be collected. Livestock grazing capacity will be determined based on monitoring information.

L-5 Therefore, I believe that we would see a large fluctuation over a given period of time if this ranch were to be managed with all considerations being given, considerations as to the climate, considerations as to the cattle market, considerations as to the interest rates being charged on borrowed capital. [Page 35]

Therefore, I think there are a lot of decisions that go into this besides just the condition of the range. [Page 36]

L-5 The impacts discussed in Chapter 3 were based on the discussion in Chapter 2. See Draft page 2-28 and 2-29 for a discussion of production problems.

**MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS
TO THE
DRAFT MFP AMENDMENT / EIS**



MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE
DRAFT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN AMENDMENT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The modifications and corrections section contains revisions made to the Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (MFP Amendment/EIS) based on new or more complete information, changes in BLM guidance since release of the Draft, or errors and omissions identified through the public review process. Minor changes are incorporated into the Errata section below. Where significant changes have been identified, the entire page has been reprinted with changes highlighted.

ERRATA

The following changes in the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS are of editorial nature and are relatively minor. Consequently, the affected pages have not been reprinted in full. These changes are to be incorporated into the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS.

Throughout document. Change Preference AUMs from 264,244 to 263,930. Change 5-year average licensed use from 227,031 to 228,200. The change is not significant; less than .1 percent.

Throughout document. References to acreage figures under Energy Minerals should be changed as follows: under PA, acres open -- 3,132,031 to 3,131,826, acres open with special stipulations -- 675,894 to 675,979, and NOL acres -- 9,836 to 9,956; under EORV Alternative, acres open -- 3,119,887 to 3,119,682 and NOL acres -- 16,960 to 17,165.

MAPS

Map 1-2, follows page 1-24. Areas shown in Dona Ana County should be deleted.

Map 1-3, follows page 1-34. Dona Ana County should only show mesquite areas. Chemical treatment of Creosote and Mechanical Treatment of Creosote, Tarbush, and Mixed Desert Shrub should be deleted from Dona Ana County only.

Map 1-3, follows page 1-34, Legend. Correct spelling. Change Mechanical Treatmentment of Creosote ... to Mechanical Treatment of Creosote

Map 2-1, follows page 2-18, LPH Pronghorn. Change 1.0-BLM to 1-0-BLM.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page vii, Appendix A. Change the title from Rangeland Consultation Policy to Policy and Procedures for Rangeland Management. Add the following subheads: A-1, Rangeland Consultation Policy and A-2, Policy and Procedures for Implementing Cooperative Management Agreements.

CHAPTERS

Page 1-27, item 8, line 3. Change 1/2 mile radius ... to 1/2 mile radius

Page 1-29, first full paragraph (beginning "The Gila River Middle Box Wildlife ACEC ...), item 5, line 1. Add the phrase To manage the public land at the beginning of the sentence as follows: To manage the public land to maintain and improve water

Page 1-31, under MAX, Rangeland Management, line 6. Add the phrase tarbush and mixed desert shrub as follows: ... mesquite, creosote, tarbush, and mixed desert shrub to more desirable

Page 2-3, under Topography, paragraph 2, lines 3 and 4. Delete in the so sentence reads: Average elevation is approximately

Page 2-5, paragraph 1, line 7. Delete will support and add word is as follows: Potential natural vegetation on these soils is

Page 2-5, paragraph 2, line 6. Delete will support and add word is as follows: Potential natural vegetation on these soils is

Page 2-7, first Heading. Change Vegetation Subtypes ... to Vegetative Subtypes

Page 2-21, second full paragraph, line 6. Change 1985 to 1987.

Page 2-23, under Fish, paragraph 2, lines 3 and 6. Change Gila roundtail to Gila roundtail chub.

Page 2-25, Table 2-11, after Roundtail Chub NM2. Add the following entry: Chihuahua Chub FP (Federal Proposed), Gila nigrescens, Riparian, Grant County--private land, Maintain existing habitat,

Page 2-27, under LIVESTOCK GRAZING, paragraph 2, line 4. Change 70 percent to 50+ percent.

Page 2-43, paragraph 1, line 9. Delete a major and add the phrase the Massacre Peak as follows: Several hundred years earlier, the Massacre Peak petroglyph

Page 2-43, paragraph 2, line 2. Change 4,000 to 4,008.

Page 2-57, under Structure of the Economy, paragraph 2, line 6. Change \$109.2 million (11 percent) to \$102.9 million (10 percent).

Page 2-57, under Structure of the Economy, paragraph 2, lines 11 and 12. Change \$3.6 million to \$9.9 million. Delete less than in parenthetical phrase.

Page 2-58, Table 2-20, Items 1, 2, and Total, under Dollar Output. Change item 1 -- \$3,680,475 to \$9,990,729; item 2 -- \$109,271,526 to \$102,961,271; Total -- \$984,414,671 to \$984,414,670.

Page 2-60, under Income, paragraph 1, lines 2 and 3. Line 2, change \$274 million, with \$1 million (.39 percent to \$275 million, with 2.9 million (1 percent. Line 3, change \$5.9 million (2.2 percent) to \$5.6 million (2 percent).

Page 3-5, Table 3-1, Ecological Condition, Poor. Change acreage figures under all alternatives as follows: PA -- 285,824 to 285,826; NA -- 684,917 to 684,917; MAX -- 249,768 to 249,770; EORV -- 218,413 to 218,415; ELG -- 151,001 to 151,003.

Page 3-6, paragraph 1, lines 6 and 7. Delete Most in line 6 and replace with Various.

Page 3-11, Summary, paragraph 2, line 4. Change 285,824 to 285,826.

Page 3-13, under Summary, paragraph 1, line 2. Change 684,917 to 684,919.

Page 3-13, under Summary, line 4. Delete the following sentence: There are no acres in excellent condition. Replace with the following sentence: There would not be any acres in excellent ecological condition by the year 2010.

Page 3-14, Summary, paragraph 2, line 6. Change 249,768 to 249,770.

Page 3-18, first full paragraph, line 4. Change 218,413 to 218,415.

Page 3-43, first full paragraph, line 5. Add the phrase, , which would interfere with the water source, as follows: rights-of-way, which would interfere with the water source, would help maintain water flow in the Middle Box

Page 3-44, under Rangeland Management, PA, paragraph 1, lines 2 and 3. Delete would remain and add phrase are at this time as follows: ... , comprising 7,663 acres, are at this time unallotted.

Page 3-45, first full paragraph, line 11. Add the phrase the summer in as follows: Systems such as rest during the summer in alternate

Page 3-57, under Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC, line 3. Add the phrase warmwater fisheries as follows: cold water fisheries, warmwater fisheries, and secondary contact recreation.

Page 3-60, second full paragraph, line 4. Add the phrase and Pony Hills as follows: ... the nationally significant sites of Oldtown and Pony Hills;

Page 3-61, under EORV Alternative, paragraph 1, line 11. Add the phrase and Pony Hills as follows: significant Massacre Peak and Pony Hills petroglyphs would

Page 3-78, under PA, Demography, paragraph 3, lines 1, 3, 4, and 6. Change 3,391 new jobs to 3,386 new jobs; 10,618 workers to 10,602 workers; 7.36 percent to 7.35 percent; 708 people to 707 people.

Page 3-84, under MAX Alternative, Demography, line 4. Change 188 jobs to 245 jobs.

Page 3-85, under EORV Alternative, Demography, lines 1 and 2. Change 89 jobs to 77 jobs; four jobs to two jobs.

Page 3-86, under ELG Alternative, Demography, lines 4 and 5. Change 344 people to 215 people; 1,046 people to 673 people.

Page 3-89, first partial paragraph, line 4. Change 1,738 jobs to 1,735 jobs.

Page 3-90, second full paragraph, line 7. Change \$3.5 million to \$35 million.

Page 3-90, third full paragraph, line 5. Change approximately 3,391 (10 percent to approximately 3,386 (11 percent.

Page 3-93, paragraph 1, lines 3 and 8. Change 23 jobs to 12 jobs; change an 11 percent decrease to a 4 percent decrease.

Page 3-93, paragraph 2, lines 3 and 6. Change \$123,300 to \$123,000; change an 11 percent to a 4 percent.

Page 3-99, under Proposed Special Designation Areas. Delete entire discussion.

APPENDICES

Page B-14 (Appendix B), paragraph 4, line 3. Add the phrase and good to excellent with a 66-75 rating as follows: 41-50 rating, and good to excellent with a 66-75 rating.

Page B-14 (Appendix B), paragraph 5, line 2. Add the phrase, and good to excellent with a 76-80 rating as follows: ... with a 51-55 rating, and good to excellent with a 76-80 rating.

Page B-14 (Appendix B), paragraph 8, line 3. Add the phrase, and good to excellent with a 61-75 rating as follows: rating, and good to excellent with a 61-75 rating.

Page B-15 (Appendix B-6), line 4. Add the phrase and excellent as follows: ... and acres in good and excellent ecological condition to acres

Page C-1 (Appendix C-1), under Soil Series, entry 14. Change Dogflat to Dagflat.

Page C-2 (Appendix C-1), under Soil Series, entry 10. Change Tres Hermanos to Tres Hermanas.

Page D-2 (Appendix D-1), under Diversity Index-Wildlife Species, Formula. Add square root symbol as follows:

$$\frac{\text{cumulative number of species}}{\sqrt{\text{individuals counted}}} = D.I.$$

Page D-13 (Appendix D-2), item 7, Chihuahua Chub. Change may affect to no effect.

Page D-14 (Appendix D-2), item 20, Gila Woodpecker. Change no effect to may affect.

Page E-1, under Special Stipulations that may be attached are:, NM-3. Move NM-3 Special Stipulations Concerning Steep Slopes, Watershed Damage, Painting, and Live Water (Oil and Gas) - New Mexico 3 under heading Stipulations attached to all leases are:.

Page E-1, under Special Stipulations that may be attached are:, NM-5. Add word Safety in title as follows: White Sands Safety Evacuation Area - New Mexico 5.

Page E-5, Stipulation Heading. Add word SAFETY as follows: WHITE SANDS SAFETY EVACUATION AREA.

Page E-7, third entry, CULTURAL RESOURCES, LC-6, lines 5 and 6. Delete the phrase: the authorized officer of the Minerals Management Service, with the concurrence of so that the sentence reads: ... approved in writing by the authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management, and the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Page E-12, first entry, MULTI-RESOURCES SEASONAL, LC-18. Delete section on Reasons: To protect raptor nesting.

Page K-8 (Appendix K-3), under Improvements, Service Buildings, Repair and Maintenance. Change \$171.57 to \$179.06.

Page K-8 (Appendix K-3), under Improvements, Service Buildings, Total. Change \$390.34 to \$397.83.

Page K-8 (Appendix K-3), under Improvements, Subtotal, Total. Change \$6,104.64 to \$6,112.13.

Page K-8 (Appendix K-3), under Total Costs, Total. Change \$22,890.96 to \$22,898.45.

Page K-8 (Appendix K-3), under Returns to Operation, Labor, Management, and Capital, Total. Change \$2,278.33 to \$2,270.84.

GLOSSARY

Page GL-2, BASE WATER. Add the following as the last sentence of the definition: Grazing preference is tied to control of base waters.

Add:

Page GL-4, following CRITICAL MINERALS.

CRUCIAL HABITAT. Portions of the habitat of a wildlife population that if destroyed or adversely modified would result in a reduction of the population to a greater extent than destruction of other portions of the habitat.

Page GL-4, following DESIRABLE FORAGE PLANT.

DIGITIZING. Refers to the Automated Digitizing System; a computer graphics and information system. It contains several software modules each of which performs separate but related tasks such as data input, file editing, statistical and analytical functions (MOSS software), and plot production. This computer process was used to graphically compute acres by land status, allotment, site write-up area, range site, vegetative subtype, ecological condition class, standard habitat site, or a combination of these.

REFERENCES

Page R-5, entry 1, line 1. Change Scifres, C.S. to Scifres, C.J.

Page R-5, entry 12, line 1. Change Holecheck, J.L. to Holechek, J.L.

Page R-6, entry 12, line 1. Change Kingsburg to Kingsbury.

Page R-7, entry 4 (Lifestyle). Delete entry and replace with the following:

Leifeste, W.F.; et al. Mesquite Control in New Mexico: New Mexico Range Brush and Weed Control Technical Committee Report No. 1.
Las Cruces, New Mexico: BLM, Las Cruces District Office, 1982.

Page R-8, entry 10, line 1. Change New Mexico Heritage Program to New Mexico State Heritage Program.

Page R-10, entry 4, line 1. Misspelled name. Change Peiper to Pieper.

Page R-12, entry 1, line 4. Change 1970 to 1978.

Page R-15, entry 6, line 1. Delete Contract after BLM.

CHANGES TO THE TEXT

As a result of changes due to public comments, other agency review, and internal review, the following Draft MFP Amendment/EIS pages have been reproduced in full.

<u>Draft Page</u>	<u>Final Page</u>	<u>Draft Page</u>	<u>Final Page</u>
1-5	100	B-3	122
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3-73	113	F-3	135
3-91	114	F-4	136
3-92	115	F-5	137
3-94	116	F-23	138
3-95	117	Map 2-2 follows 2-26	139
3-96	118	Overlay 2 Map Pocket	140
3-97	119	Overlay 2 Map Pocket	141
3-98	120	Overlay 3 Map Pocket	142
3-99	121		

This step is the environmental analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

The Proposed Action presented in Chapter 1 was formulated based on (1) issues identified through the planning process, (2) information received at public meetings, workshops, and letters, (3) formal coordination and consultation with other agencies, (4) decision criteria developed and considered by management, and (5) evaluation of the impacts associated with each alternative. The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative.

Selection of Resource Management Plan

This step is the amendment selection approval process and will determine the management direction for the Resource Area using the analysis of the two issues in this plan (Energy Minerals and Rangeland Management).

The management direction will be made after (1) evaluation of comments received on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, (2) preparation of the Final MFP Amendment/EIS, (3) evaluation of comments on the final which leads to, (4) the published record of decision (ROD) which contains the resource management plan for the issues analyzed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Following the publication of the ROD, intervals and standards for monitoring and evaluating the resource management plan will be established. The intervals will not be more than 5 years. Standards will be developed to determine whether mitigating measures are satisfactory, whether assumptions used in the assessment of impacts are correct, or whether there has been significant change in the related plans of other Federal agencies, state or local governments, or Indian tribes. The information gained will be incorporated into any future planning.

CONFORMANCE

In accordance with the Planning Regulations [43 CFR Subpart 1601.8(b)(3)], the Proposed Action and alternatives (with the exception of the No Action Alternative) as discussed in this document propose changes in existing MFPs and will require a MFP Amendment/EIS. Plans in existence covering the LCLRA are the Gila MFP (1978), Hermanas MFP (1969; revised 1971), and Southern Rio Grande MFP (1982). The analysis and decisions in the Southern Rio Grande EIS (1981) and MFP are in conformance with all activities except energy minerals leasing.

Consistency With Other Plans

At this time, there are two known inconsistencies between the alternatives and officially approved and adopted resource related plans or policies and programs of other Federal agencies, state and local

governments, and Indian tribes. The Elimination of Livestock Grazing Alternative is not consistent with the economic development policies and programs of the state and local governments. The designation of the Gila Lower Box Riparian and Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACECs on lands that are withdrawn for powersite purposes could adversely impact Bureau of Reclamation plans involving a storage structure at the Conner Dam site on the Gila River. A feature of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) was to provide New Mexico 18,000 acre-feet of CAP water. This action would not be consistent with Bureau of Reclamation plans and studies in progress and state and local government policies with regard to the authorized feature of the CAP. However, the powersite withdrawals are recognized as being valid existing rights. If these rights are exercised to use the area for powersites and related purposes, the management objectives of the ACECs would be subordinate to these existing rights. Continuing coordination and consultation will take place during the public comment period on the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS, the Final MFP Amendment/EIS, and the Record of Decision. During this time, other inconsistencies may be identified.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action (PA)

Objectives

The objectives of the Proposed Action are: (1) to meet the demand for mineral exploration and development while minimizing the damage to other resources from these activities; (2) to provide forage for livestock while accommodating the needs of wildlife and watershed; and (3) to concentrate management on those allotments with the most potential for improvement and resolution of resource conflicts. In addition, priority has been given to the identification, proposed designation, protection, and special management proposals for ACECs.

Energy Minerals

Although BLM exerts influence over placement and rehabilitation of energy minerals operations, the discretionary action controlled solely by BLM is energy minerals leasing. Therefore, the alternatives available for analysis of the energy minerals activity are related to leasing.

Under the PA, 9,956 acres are not open to leasing (NOL). The PA would allow energy minerals leasing and associated exploration, development, production, and abandonment operations within the LCLRA, subject to special stipulations, on 675,979 acres. (See Overlays 2 and 3 in map pocket for areas with special stipulations.) The remainder of the Federal mineral estate in the Resource Area, 3,131,826 acres, is open to energy minerals leasing with no special restriction or stipulation required other than those required under the standard operating procedures

Under the PA, the following special stipulations would be used.

TABLE 1-2 (concluded)

STATUS OF ENERGY MINERALS LEASING BY ALTERNATIVE

Name	Proposed Action	No Action	Maximization of Energy Minerals Leasing	Enhancement of Other Resource Values	Acres (Federal Mineral Estate)
R&PPs (continued)					
Cemeteries					
Dona Ana County Cemetery	PS	PS	Open	NSO	10
Shakespeare Cemetery (Hidalgo)	PS	PS	Open	NSO	20
Religious Sites					
Lords Ranch (Our Lady's Youth Center-Dona Ana)	PS	PS	Open	NSO	320
Tortugas Mountain (Dona Ana)	PS	Open	Open	NSO	1
Observatory Sites					
(NMSU) Astronomical Research (Dona Ana)	PS	PS	Open	NSO	640
(Northwestern University) Astronomical Research and Educational Purposes (Dona Ana)	PS	PS	Open	NSO	160
School Sites					
Gadsden Elementary	PS	Open	Open	NSO	30
Gadsden High School (Proposed)	PS	Open	Open	NSO	150
Recreational Use Areas					
Grant County--Scientific, Educational, and Recreational Use	PS	PS	Open	NSO	134
Hidalgo County--Recreational Use	PS	PS	Open	PS	20
Las Cruces Shooting Range	PS	PS	Open	PS	480
Luna County--Public Recreation Area	PS	PS	Open	PS	160
Spring Canyon (Luna)--Public Park and Recreation Area	PS	PS	Open	PS	560
Village of Central (Grant)--Municipal Park and Roadside Rest Area (Proposed) West Mesa Park (Dona Ana)	PS	PS	Open	PS	160
	PS	Open	Open	PS	1,920
Miscellaneous					
Educational Television Site (Dona Ana)	PS	PS	Open	NSO	20
Prison Site (Dona Ana)	NSO	PS	Open	NSO	262
Water Tanks--Silver City (Grant)	NSO	PS	Open	NSO	2
City Expansion (Las Cruces)	PS	PS	Open	PS	2,834
Airports					
Hatch	NSO	PS	Open	NSO	120
Las Cruces-Crawford	NSO	PS	Open	NSO	2,210
Anapra	NSO	PS	Open	NSO	1,712
Other Areas					
Alamo Mueco Mountains (Bighorn Habitat Area)	PS	PS	Open	PS	22,322
Big Hatchet Mountains (Bighorn Habitat Area)	PS	PS	Open	PS	48,155
Butterfield Trail (well preserved ruts) (Proposed)	Open	Open	Open	PS	7,000
Cooke's Range (Wildlife) (Proposed)	PS	b/	Open	NSO	11,645
Cowboy Spring (Bighorn Reintroduction Area) (Proposed)	PS	b/	Open	NSO	13,906
Florida Mountains Raptor Nesting Area (Proposed)	PS	Open	Open	NSO	5,999
Fort Cummings	NOL	NOL	Open	NOL	13,906
Franklin Mountains (South) (Proposed)	PS	Open	Open	NSO	1,272
Franklin Mountains (North) (Proposed)	Open	Open	Open	PS	2,860
Gila River--					
Gila River Riparian Areas (Proposed)	PS	b/	Open	NSO	12,577
Gila River Valley	b/	PS	Open	b/	21,563
Soils Area (Proposed)	b/	PS	Open	NSO	13,404
Hachley Draw Riparian Area (Proposed)	PS	Open	Open	NSO	1,350
Massacre Peak (Petroglyph Area)	NOL	NOL	Open	NSO	240
NMSU College Ranch	PS	PS	Open	PS	60,660
Oldtown (Proposed)	PS	Open	Open	NSO	20
Organ Mountains (Wildlife) (Proposed)	PS	b/	Open	NSO	9,360
Peloncillo Mountains (Crucial Habitat Area)	b/	PS	Open	b/	80,470
Peloncillo Mountains (Wildlife Habitat Area) (Proposed)	b/	PS	Open	PS	82,196
Pony Hills	PS	Open	Open	PS	5
Redrock Game Farm (Proposed)	PS	Open	Open	NOL	712
San Simon Cienega	PS	PS	Open	PS	4,200
San Simon Cienega Riparian Area (Proposed)	PS	b/	Open	NSO	828
Chihuahua Chub Critical Habitat (Proposed)	NOL	Open	Open	NOL	120

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office Files, 1982.

Note: a/ The WSAs under the MAX Alternative would be open only if Congress drops the areas from wilderness designation. The Draft EA for WSAs is scheduled for release in 1983.

b/ This area is covered in whole or in part within another area, with a stipulation to protect the same or similar values (see Overlays 2 and 3 in map pocket).

Amount of Vegetation Allocated to Grazing and Other Uses

The past 5-year (1977-81) average licensed grazing use indicates that 227,031 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of forage were authorized for use by livestock annually on public land within the 3-County Area. This data will be used as a basis for negotiating initial livestock grazing allocations beginning in 1985. Initial allocations will be based on consultation with permittees, the Target Group (see Appendix A-1 for those who comprise the Las Cruces District Target Group), and the use of other resource data that becomes available. However, the proportion of the rangeland in fair and poor condition indicates that a lower level of livestock grazing may be more appropriate in some areas. Following completion of the Final MFP Amendment/EIS, a Rangeland Program Summary outlining the rangeland management program will be written and distributed to the public before issuing proposed decisions to grazing permittees. Within 17 months after the Final MFP Amendment/EIS is filed and the 30-day comment period is over, all proposed livestock grazing decisions will be issued. After they are issued, monitoring studies would be initiated. If monitoring studies show a need for adjustments, another decision will be issued and the adjustment will be implemented over a 5-year period following the final decision. Before adverse decisions are made, each adversely affected operator will be contacted and the "Section 8" Rangeland Consultation Policy (see Appendix A) will be followed. The 5-year period could be waived if an agreement is reached with the permittee to implement the decision in less than 5 years or the total suspension is 15 percent or less of the authorized active grazing use for the previous year. Since there is a possibility that livestock grazing use may be adjusted to an unknown level below the 5-year average use, a lower level of grazing use of approximately 213,286 AUMs was used for analytical purposes. The projected lower level, or worst case, was determined only for allotments in the improve category (I) (see Appendix F-3 for criteria used in designating categories). It was assumed that no adjustment would be needed on areas in good to excellent ecological condition, a 20 percent downward adjustment on areas in fair condition, and a 35 percent downward adjustment on the areas in poor condition. (Appendix F-6 contains acres of ecological condition by allotment.)

The initial allocation to big game would be 1,917 AUMs. This is 237 AUMs less than the 2,154 AUMs presently allocated. This change is due primarily to present allocations to big game on allotments which have no big game or less than one animal per two sections. Future allocations would be for areas only where the need is justified. There are no wild, free-roaming horses or burros within the 3-County Area, therefore, no forage is allocated to them.

It is anticipated that by the year 2010, the projected allocation would be 257,402 AUMs to livestock and 3,498 AUMs to big game. This would represent an increase of 30,371 AUMs over the present 5-year average licensed use and would be a decrease of 6,842 AUMs from the existing preference. The allocation to big game would be an increase of 1,344 AUMs over the existing allocation.

Table 1-5 shows the existing total allotment acreages, livestock AUMs (preference and 5-year average licensed use), big game AUMs, and the initial proposed allocations to livestock and big game. Table 1-6 indicates proposed forage allocations by alternative. Figures 1-1 to 1-5 indicate graphically the forage allocations under the PA and alternatives. The analysis deals exclusively with AUMs on public land (see Appendix F-1). A discussion on intermingled state, private, and Federal lands is located on pages 1-42.

TABLE 1-5

SUMMARY OF EXISTING ALLOTMENT STATUS, ACREAGE, AND AUM ALLOCATION^{a/}

Existing Allotment Status	No.	Acres			Present AUMs Allocated					Proposed Initial Forage Allocations			
		Public	Other	Total	Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	Livestock Federal Preference	Controlled AUMs ^{b/}	Livestock Average Licensed Use (Federal)	Big Game	Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	Livestock Federal	Controlled AUMs	Big Game (Federal)
AMP	15	434,551	160,077	594,628	89,220	63,788	25,432	52,788	852	73,230	52,788	20,442	314
Non-AMP	247	1,189,539	755,344	1,944,883	327,717	200,142	127,575	175,412	1,302	280,848	175,412	105,436	1,603
Unallotted	25	7,663	-0-	7,663	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL		1,631,753	915,421	2,547,174	416,937	263,930	153,007	228,200	2,154	354,078	228,200	125,878	1,917

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office Files, 1982.

Notes: ^{a/}The figures shown are for allotments within the 3-County Area only.

^{b/}Controlled AUMs are those AUMs on private or state lands which are owned or leased by the permittee.

Method of Grazing Management

Under the PA, livestock grazing would be authorized on all allotments now being grazed. (Refer to Appendix F-1 for detailed allotment information--acreage, ownership, present preference, 5-year average licensed use, and proposed AUM allocation.) Technical Report VIII contains present and proposed allocations by land ownership.

Three levels of grazing management would be implemented throughout the 3-County Area. Similar allotments would be identified as belonging to one of three categories for which the objectives would be to: maintain the allotments' current satisfactory condition (Category M); manage the allotments in a custodial manner, while still protecting existing resources (Category C); or improve the allotments' current unsatisfactory condition (Category I). Appendix F-2 shows the proposed categories for each allotment under consideration. Technical Report VIII contains the dichotomous key used in arriving at M, I, and C categorization.

Category M (Maintain Management Category)

Using criteria shown in Appendix F-3, 164 allotments and parts of 6 others, comprising 447,210 acres, would be designated as Category M. For analysis purposes, 15 of the 164 Category M allotments would be analyzed with their adjacent allotments, of which 13 are in Category I and 2 in Category C. These allotments show mid-fair or better ecological condition, satisfactory forage utilization patterns, and have

TABLE 1-7

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED VEGETATION TREATMENTS ON PUBLIC LAND
(PROPOSED ACTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF OTHER RESOURCE VALUES ALTERNATIVE)

Allotment Number	Chemical Treatment (Acres) ^{a/}		Total Acres Treated	Additional AUMs Available to Livestock Through Treatment
	Creosote	Mesquite		
1008	138 ^{b/}	0	138	9
1032	1,853	0	1,853	123
1041	7,487	0	7,487	499
1044	2,314	211	2,525	181
1063	2,033	0	2,033	135
1076	1,037	0	1,037	107
1078	1,313	4,998	6,311	932
2027	26,104	4,400	30,504	2,461
TOTAL	42,279	9,609	51,888	4,447
ESTIMATED COST PER ACRE	\$16.00	\$5.00 - \$24.00		
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$676,464	\$48,045 - \$230,616		

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office Files, 1982.

Notes: ^{a/}Acres are included in the table of Vegetation Treatments for the Maximization Alternative.

^{b/}These acres are not shown on Map 1-2 because of the map scale and small acreage involved.

As a minimum, the monitoring studies would be designed to collect data on actual livestock use, wildlife use, degree of key forage species utilization, climatic conditions, and rangeland ecological condition and trend. Proper forage utilization would vary depending on the key forage species and season of use, however, in no instance would it be more than 60 percent of the current year's growth.

All allotments proposed for Category I would be monitored (see Appendix F-2, Proposed Management Categories by Allotment). The number and frequency of studies per allotment would be determined by local conditions and BLM's budgetary constraints. The allotments proposed for Categories M and C would be inspected periodically to determine if the principal objectives are being met.

The detailed techniques to be used in the monitoring studies would vary depending on the data needed. The following techniques or variation thereof would be used to collect data for each critical element:

Federal minerals with the surface being owned by state or private interests. Where the subsurface is administered by the BLM and the surface is state or privately-owned, the surface owners would be consulted before any surface disturbance is allowed. In this case, no activity will be allowed without a clearance for threatened or endangered species and archaeology.

On unfenced intermingled private, state, and Federal lands within allotments, the BLM, the permittee or private landowner, and the State Land Office will consult, cooperate, and coordinate decisions regarding capacities on these intermingled lands.

The BLM issues two types of authorizations for recognizing grazing capacity of privately controlled lands: exchange-of-use agreements and percentage Federal land permits. Exchange-of-use agreements may be issued to applicants owning or controlling non-public lands that are interspersed with and normally grazed in conjunction with public land, not to exceed the grazing capacity of the non-public lands. Percentage Federal land permits are issued and generally restricted to allotments that are used and controlled by one operator. After the grazing capacity of all lands within the allotment is determined, the permittee would be billed only for the grazing capacity of the public land.

Section 8 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (43 U.S.C. 1901 et. seq.) requires consultation, cooperation, and coordination by BLM with lessees, permittees, landowners, the district advisory boards, and state agencies (refer to Appendix A for BLM Rangeland Consultation Policy in New Mexico).

IMPACTS

A display of the impacts of the PA and alternatives is shown in Table 1-10. Further discussion of these impacts is located in Chapter 3.

Generally, the land within the Resource Area outside of the grazing allotments is used for irrigated agriculture, rural residency, ranching, mineral development, recreation, and urban development.

Portions of the Gila River Lower Box Riparian ACEC and the Gila River Middle Box Wildlife ACEC are withdrawn for use in connection with the San Carlos Indian Irrigation Project. In addition, segments of both ACEC areas are withdrawn by Presidential Executive Order for powersite reservations. These lands are currently being reviewed by the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, to determine their importance for powersite locations. Those withdrawals found not feasible for powersites will be revoked.

Transportation

Access to the Resource Area is principally via Interstates 10 and 25; U.S. Highways 70, 80, and 180; State Roads 9, 11, 26, 28, 61, 90, 338, and 464; along with numerous county roads and ranch trails. Traffic on the interstates is very heavy with vehicles just "passing through"; local traffic is only a minor part of the total traffic count. Interstate 10 is the nation's major "snow free" southern route to the west coast. The Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads cross the Resource Area. Roads for railroad maintenance are located on railroad rights-of-way in some locations. Although they are not public roads, they are usually open to public use.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Demography

In 1980, the Resource Area had a population of 144,178 persons, as shown in Table 2-18. Two of every three inhabitants of the area lived in Dona Ana County, mostly in Las Cruces and the river corridor. The population in the Resource Area represents 11 percent of that of the state, only slightly above the 1970 ratio. The growth by county has been relatively slow with the most growth in Dona Ana and Luna Counties. Hurley and Lordsburg have lost population over the last 20 years. Virden and Columbus had the highest population growth rates of municipalities in the area between 1970 and 1980. (Harbridge House, Inc. 1978 and update 1982.)

Employment

Employment is estimated at 46,100 for 1980 (Bureau of Business and Economic Research 1982) with 30,526 in the non-government industries (of which 4,500 or 9.7 percent of total are employed in the agricultural industries) (see Table 2-21) and 15,500 in the government industry. In 1980, the unemployment rates for Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties were 8.0 percent, 7.1 percent, 4.3 percent, and 10.8 percent, respectively. The unemployment rate for the State of New Mexico for 1980 was 7.4 percent (University of New Mexico 1982). Unemployment rates in Dona Ana and Luna Counties exceeded the state average for 1980.

TABLE 2-21

ESTIMATED INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT
FOR THE LAS CRUCES/LORDSBURG RESOURCE AREA, 1980

Economic Industries	Income	Employment
1. Range Livestock ^{a/}	\$ 2,975,000	284
2. Other Livestock	5,611,000	1,956
3. Other Agriculture	7,785,000	2,262
4. Copper Mining	25,430,000	2,585
5. Other Non-Ferrous Metal Mining	1,156,000	97
6. Other Metal Mining	739,600	44
7. Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas ^{b/}	325	0
8. Other Mining	1,406,000	101
9. Construction	50,890,000	2,644
10. Ordnance	2,905,000	191
11. Food and Kindred Products	3,764,000	436
12. Apparel	10,670,000	993
13. Wood Products and Lumber	416,400	45
14. Printing and Publishing	3,245,000	283
15. Chemicals	1,151,000	56
16. Leather and Leather Products	24,800	3
17. Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	3,638,000	254
18. Primary Metals	1,436,000	95
19. Fabricated Metal Products	342,600	29
20. Machinery Except Electrical	991,300	92
21. Electrical Equipment	294,000	24
22. Transportation Equipment	101,000	8
23. Miscellaneous Manufacturing	212,500	21
24. Transportation	12,150,000	1,045
25. Communications	8,305,000	561
26. Utilities	5,472,000	451
27. Wholesale Trade	19,270,000	1,586
28. Eating and Drinking Places	6,577,000	1,837
29. Other Retail Trade	43,260,000	6,647
30. Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	19,580,000	1,620
31. Lodging Places	3,625,000	749
32. Other Services	30,540,000	3,472
33. Geothermal Development ^{b/}	376	0
34. BLM Rangeland Development Projects ^{c/}	1,375,000	44
TOTAL	\$ 275,696,901	30,526

Source: BLM Las Cruces/Lordsburg Input-Output Model, 1982.

Notes: ^{a/}Total direct income is for those ranch operations that are dependent on BLM permits for their operation.

^{b/}Items 7 and 33 were used as artificial industries with minimal dollar amounts. There is currently no production in Item 7 while Item 33 has minimal production. These industries were included to assess the economic significance for analyzing the alternatives in Chapter 3.

^{c/}The dollar output for Item 34 is an artificial figure and does not represent economic activity for that industry nor does it interact with the other industries. It was necessary to include this data in the development of the transactions table to allow for analysis of BLM rangeland development projects in Chapter 3.

Threatened or Endangered Plant Species

Adverse impacts to threatened or endangered plant species and their habitat from livestock grazing would be removed. Any beneficial impacts favoring the growth and reproduction of these species also would be removed.

Summary

The number of acres in each ecological condition would increase in excellent from 1,893 to 36,213 and good from 91,082 to 439,201 and decrease in fair from 825,651 to 805,085 and poor from 512,876 to 151,003. The number of acres in each forage value class would increase in good from 223,460 to 585,439 and decrease in fair from 512,381 to 415,749 and poor from 695,661 to 430,314. Vegetative ground cover would increase in the long-term from 14 to 18 percent.

Proposed Special Designation Areas

Proposed Action (PA)

Restrictions on surface disturbing and mechanized activities within all the proposed Areas of Critical-Environmental Concern (ACECs), would provide long-term protection and enhancement for the existing vegetation.

Gila Lower Box Riparian ACEC

By restricting livestock use through total exclusion on small plots, bottomland species could reestablish themselves in these areas in the long-term. Ground cover would also improve within the small plots.

Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC

Designation of the ACEC would have little impact on vegetation since little vegetation grows in the steep canyon of the Middle Box.

Soils

Energy Minerals

Proposed Action (PA)

In the long-term under the PA, soils would be disturbed on approximately 32,480 acres of public land by 20,300 miles of seismic lines. The susceptibility of soil erosion by wind and water would increase slightly in the short-term as the soil surface is exposed where vegetation is destroyed along the seismic lines. Soils of the gravelly, gravelly loam, hills, and breaks range sites would be most susceptible to water erosion, especially on slopes. Sandy soils of the sandy, deep sand, and loamy range sites would be more susceptible to wind erosion. Off-road travel would increase soil compaction on fine-textured soils of the clayey, draw, bottomland, and salt flats range sites. If the soils

be impacts to the wildlife resource. The Florida Mountains would be open to leasing. Very little development would occur in the mountains themselves, but exploration work would still be done. The noise and activity associated with explosives could disturb nesting raptors; eagles, prairie falcons, and red-tailed hawks all nest in the range. Nest failure could be possible under these circumstances.

This activity also could disrupt the normal behavior of mule deer and ibex, stressing them and possibly causing a few deaths. Big game could move into other areas where they would have to compete for forage with wildlife and livestock already using those areas. This is a matter for concern because the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and BLM have agreed that ibex are to be limited to the Florida Mountains (USDI BLM 1979).

Hadley Draw in the Cooke's Range also would be open to leasing. A similar situation exists in that raptor nesting could be disrupted, although this area has far fewer raptors than the Florida Mountains because it is a small area. Some riparian vegetation could be destroyed and the water source polluted.

NMDGF's Redrock Game Farm would continue to be open to leasing. Energy minerals activity could disturb captive bighorn sheep which are necessary for the reintroduction program. Bighorn sheep are vulnerable to a variety of illnesses, many of which are stress-related (USDI BLM 1980). Deaths in the captive herd are quite likely if they are stressed. This could be a serious impact in light of their low numbers and their confined condition.

If the proposed critical habitat for the Chihuahua chub were left open for geothermal leasing and subsequent development, the habitat could be adversely altered. Groundwater pumping could dewater springs necessary for the fish's survival and high temperature wastewater from a geothermal plant could raise the water temperature of the pools where the chub is found. Such a rise in temperature would make these pools unsuitable for chubs.

Maximization (MAX) of Energy Minerals Leasing Alternative

Under this alternative, there would be no special protective stipulations on riparian areas. This means that the Gila River, Hadley Draw in the Cooke's Range, San Simon Cienega, and Guadalupe Canyon would all be open to leasing. Since vegetation is concentrated in small areas, energy minerals activity on these sites could remove a large proportion of the vegetation. This would cause a significant loss of both food and cover for 332 vertebrate species associated with riparian habitats. The loss would be long-term since tree and shrub species are slow-growing.

Oil and gas operations close to a river create the potential for oil spills and brine contamination. An oil spill would be harmful for fish as well as for terrestrial species which drink out of the river, for waterfowl which land on the river, and for animals which feed on

numbers. Exploration work during the breeding season could affect normal reproductive behavior and lower natality rates.

The impacts on the proposed critical habitat for the Chihuahua chub would be the same as those discussed under the NA Alternative.

Summary

Exploration and development could affect a number of areas which have important wildlife values: riparian areas, the Aden Lava Flow, NMDGF's Redrock Game Farm, and several mountain ranges which have nesting raptors, bighorn sheep, and other big game species.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative

Under this alternative, impacts to wildlife derive from stipulations for energy minerals leasing. In the Cooke's Range, Cowboy Spring, Floridas, and Gila River riparian areas, no surface occupancy would be allowed and NMDGF's Redrock Game Farm would not be open to leasing. Currently, the Floridas are open to leasing and the other areas have a protective stipulation which permits some control of energy minerals activity. This stipulation is designed to protect significant wildlife values such as threatened or endangered species and nesting raptors. Oil and gas exploration and leasing would be allowed if it could be done without impairing these values. The no surface occupancy stipulation proposed under the EORV Alternative provides protection from disturbance for all species, not just the more sensitive and rare ones. It also ensures that no habitat degradation would occur from energy minerals development. However, exploration and associated surface disturbance would still be possible.

Rangeland Management

Proposed Action (PA)

Management of the 71 Category I allotments and parts of 10 others would improve ecological condition by 10 points by 2010. (See Appendix B-4 for an explanation of ecological condition class ratings.) Table 3-8 projects how many acres of each SHS would improve one condition class. Faunal and floral diversity is compared between condition classes where information is available. In addition to the 10 point improvement, 51,888 acres of creosote and mixed shrub and mesquite rolling uplands are proposed for chemical vegetation treatment (see Appendix B-1 for vegetation treatment guidelines). These areas would improve one condition class. Category M and C allotments would not change significantly. The conifer mountain SHS is not grazed by livestock and would not be impacted.

Standard Habitat Sites (SHS's)

Anticipated change in SHS's are discussed as they relate to various wildlife species. Table 3-8 shows comparison data between ecological condition classes. Plant diversity usually shows major

Proposed Special Designation Areas

Proposed Action (PA)

Gila Lower Box Riparian ACEC

The small areas excluded from livestock grazing would not significantly impact movement of cattle. There would be no loss of AUMs on the Caprock allotment (1078).

Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC

Livestock grazing would not be impacted since cattle cannot use the canyon.

Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC

Management of the Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC would not significantly impact livestock grazing except that special stipulations could be made on a proposed spring development on the San Augustine allotment (5003) on the east side of the Organ Mountains. Mining activity would not reduce AUMs and in many cases, would occur on steep slopes unsuitable for livestock grazing.

Water Resources

Energy Minerals

Proposed Action (PA)

Surface disturbing activities associated with oil and gas and geothermal development (which include geophysical exploration, access roads, exploratory drilling, and production wells) could increase the amount of sediment entering surface water. Sediment yield is determined partly from the rate of soil erosion and also by particle size, distance to water, and intensity of rainfall. Under arid and semiarid conditions, most sediment generated does not immediately reach live water (perennial streams), but is deposited in ephemeral drainages where it may remain until an unusually heavy rainfall event occurs.

Energy minerals development would not be a major contributor of sediment yield in perennial streams in the Resource Area. This is due in part to a vast majority of the Resource Area being within a series of closed basins that do not contribute surface water to any regional river basin, and partly to location and construction stipulations placed on surface disturbing activities near perennial streams.

The most significant impact from increased sediment would be site-specific and would involve stockponds and reservoirs in ephemeral drainages directly downstream from the area disturbed. Surface runoff would increase locally and transport additional sediment. The life

Increases in game bird populations (see Chapter 3, Wildlife) would improve hunting opportunities. Deer hunting visitor hours would increase significantly to 153,315. This is an increase of 73,755 visitor hours from the current level of use.

Proposed Special Designation Areas

Proposed Action (PA)

Gila Lower Box Riparian ACEC

The combination of riparian vegetation, wildlife, water, scenery, and cultural resources in the proposed Gila Lower Box Riparian ACEC support numerous opportunities for primitive types of recreation activities. The management objectives of the ACEC include preservation of these opportunities. Many of the special management objectives would indirectly enhance recreation opportunities in the area. For example, in the long-term, fencing selected plots in the ACEC could result in improved condition of the riparian vegetation, improved watershed conditions, and improved water quality. These long-term changes would enhance the natural and scenic values of the ACEC, improve birdwatching opportunities, and enhance other water based recreation opportunities such as swimming, kayaking, rafting, and canoeing. Improvement in fisheries habitat could slightly improve fishing opportunities. Signing and interpretation of the area's cultural resources and closure of the ACEC to ORVs would enhance and protect primitive recreation opportunities. The development of primitive recreation sites at either end of the Lower Box Canyon to provide for parking, trailheads, and trash receptacles would also provide protection for the primitive values within the canyon.

Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC

Under the special management requirements for the Gila Middle Box Wildlife ACEC, no new rights-of-way would be granted, a no surface occupancy stipulation would be placed on energy minerals leases, and the ACEC would be closed to locatable and saleable mineral entry. These restrictions would substantially restrict surface disturbance in the ACEC. Restricting surface disturbance would help maintain water quality and improve watershed conditions in the long-term. These long-term impacts would indirectly help preserve the quality of water-based recreation opportunities in the Gila Middle Box.

Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC

The quality of the many recreation opportunities available in the Organ Mountains Recreation Lands (OMRLs) is heavily dependent on the natural and scenic values of the Organ Mountains. The Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC would encompass an area of 8,947 acres within the OMRLs (27,193 acres). Under the special management requirements for the Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC, the area would be managed as a VRM Class I, no

In the long-term, total direct income for the Resource Area economy as a result of geophysical and geothermal exploration, and one producing oil and gas well would increase by approximately \$41 million. Total employment would increase by approximately 3,390 jobs.

No Action (NA) Alternative

Under this alternative, the LCLRA currently has 10 areas that are designated not open to leasing (approximately 108,460 acres). Assuming that these leases would have been leased noncompetitively at an annual rental fee of \$1.00 per acre, \$108,460 (which the State of New Mexico receives 50 percent) would be lost. In addition, if the areas contained reserves for production, the economic benefit forgone would be loss of royalties from production, expenditures, and jobs in the Resource Area economy. Approximately 564,677 acres are open to leasing with special stipulations. This could increase the plan of operations costs for various oil companies in order to ensure compliance with the special stipulations in the leases. Total direct income for the Resource Area economy would remain at approximately \$275 million. Total employment would remain at 30,526 jobs.

Maximization (MAX) of Energy Minerals Leasing Alternative

Under this alternative, opportunities for energy minerals leasing and associated exploration, development, production and abandonment operations would be maximized on 3,817,761 acres of Federal mineral estate. If the total acreage were leased noncompetitively at an annual rental fee of \$1.00 per acre (which the State of New Mexico receives 50 percent), \$3,817,761 would be generated annually.

In the short-term, total direct income would change to approximately \$285 million, an increase of approximately \$9.4 million from the existing \$275 million. Total employment would change to 31,316, an increase of 790 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs.

In the long-term, total direct income would change to approximately \$316 million, an increase of approximately \$41 million from the existing \$275 million. Total employment would change to 33,912, an increase of 3,386 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative

Under this alternative, 7 areas are described as not open to leasing, (approximately 16,960 acres). If these leases were leased noncompetitively at an annual rental fee of \$1.00 per acre, \$16,960 (which the State of New Mexico receives 50 percent) would be lost. In addition, if the area contained reserves for production, the economic benefit forgone would be the loss of royalties from production, as well as expenditures and employment opportunities in the Resource Area economy.

In the short-term, total direct income for the Resource Area economy would be the same as those discussed under the PA. In the short-term, total direct income would change to approximately \$285

million, an increase of approximately \$9.4 million from the existing \$275 million. Total employment would change to 31,316, an increase of 790 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs.

In the long-term, total direct income would change to approximately \$316 million, an increase of approximately \$41 million from the existing \$275 million. Total employment would change to 33,912, an increase of 3,386 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs.

Rangeland Management

This analysis considers direct and indirect impacts of the PA (both short- and long-term) using the 5-year average licensed use since the 5-year average approximates actual use of BLM forage. A linear program model currently on file in the BLM computer system was used to calculate the impacts the various ranch sizes would experience in the short- and long-term due to the change in AUMs under each alternative (see Appendix K-5 for methodology and Technical Report X for more detailed information).

Proposed Action (PA)

Using a worst case analysis, no measurable shifts in employment patterns or unemployment rates would occur in the short-term under the PA. If during the consultation process it is demonstrated that the adjustments would be needed to improve rangeland conditions, primary and secondary effects would result both in the short- and long-term. There would be a decrease of approximately 9 percent in AUMs from the 5-year average for the 167 allotments used by 95 operators. This adjustment would reduce total receipts from ranching by approximately \$410,000. Total receipts for the subsistence size operations would be reduced by \$655, for the small operations by \$592, and \$2,903 and \$18,740 for the medium and large operations, respectively (BLM Las Cruces District Linear Program Files 1982). (See Table 3-12 for cumulative costs and returns for all ranch operations.) See Appendix K-3 for individual estimated costs and returns for representative ranch operations and Appendix K-4 for impacts on each ranch category.

Ranch operations are valued by financial institutions on the number of AUMs they possess or control. As discussed in Chapter 2, the value of the BLM grazing permits in the 3-County Area is over \$25 million. In the short-term, readjustments of grazing privileges from preference to the worst case situation would reduce the valuation of BLM grazing permits for borrowing purposes by 22 percent. This reduction would mean a loss of approximately \$5 million in BLM grazing permits and a corresponding decrease in the financial flexibility of ranch operations.

would increase by \$6,000, and receipts for the large operation would increase by \$16,700.

Under this alternative, the BLM grazing permit value for borrowing purposes would remain at approximately 4 percent below the preference level. This would mean a loss of \$989,000 in the BLM grazing permit value from preference and a corresponding decrease in the financial flexibility of the ranch operators.

In the long-term, an increase of 24 jobs to the Resource Area economy would occur. Fourteen jobs would be added to the range livestock industry, one to the other livestock industry, one to the construction industry, two to the transportation industry, one to the eating and drinking industry, three to the other retail industry, one to the lodging industry, and two to the other services industry. The Resource Area economy would experience a less than 1 percent increase in employment. The range livestock industry would experience a 4.9 percent increase in employment opportunities.

In the long-term, there would be a \$238,000 increase in direct income. The increase in direct income for the range livestock industry would be \$150,000, \$3,000 to the other livestock industry, with the remainder of the increase being distributed throughout the Resource Area economy. The increase in direct income would be less than 1 percent to the Resource Area economy; however, the range livestock industry would experience a 5 percent increase in direct income.

Under this alternative, the BLM Las Cruces District would expend approximately \$1.4 million for rangeland developments in the short-term. These rangeland developments would result in an additional 18 jobs and an increase of approximately \$183,300 in direct income to the Resource Area economy. This action would increase employment and direct income in the Resource Area economy by less than 1 percent.

Approximately \$816,000 would be expended for vegetation treatments in the short-term. This action would result in an additional 10 jobs and would increase direct income by approximately \$104,000 in the Resource Area economy. This would increase direct income and employment opportunities by less than 1 percent in the Resource Area economy.

Summary

Under the PA in the short-term, there would be a 9 percent decrease in AUMs from the 5-year average. Total receipts for all ranch operations would be reduced by approximately \$410,000. The Resource Area economy would experience a reduction in direct income and employment of less than 1 percent. The range livestock operators would experience a 4 percent decrease in employment and direct income. In the long-term, total receipts would increase for all operations by \$505,000. All livestock operations would continue to operate despite poor financial returns.

The Resource Area economy would experience an increase in direct income and employment of less than 1 percent. The range livestock operators would experience an increase in employment of 4.9 percent and an increase in direct income of 5 percent.

No Action (NA) Alternative

Under the NA Alternative, the economic structure of the Resource Area economy would not be affected. The established economic trends between 1970 and 1982 would persist. Any changes that would occur would not be due to factors related to actions under the NA Alternative.

Under the NA Alternative, there would be a continuation of the current BLM Las Cruces District rangeland management program. Authorized livestock numbers would remain the same and would be adjusted if monitoring studies indicated a change in livestock grazing capacity. Total receipts for all operations would remain at approximately \$7.8 million. Total direct income for the Resource Area economy would remain at approximately \$275 million. Total employment would remain at 30,526 for the Resource Area economy.

Maximization (MAX) of Livestock Forage Production Alternative

Under this alternative in the short-term, the BLM Las Cruces District would expend approximately \$4.5 million for rangeland developments. This action would result in an additional 60 jobs and an increase of approximately \$578,000 in direct income for the Resource Area economy. This action would increase employment opportunities and direct income in the Resource Area economy by less than 1 percent.

Approximately \$8.5 million would be expended for vegetation treatments. This action would result in an additional 112 jobs in the Resource Area economy. Total direct income would increase by approximately \$1 million. This action would increase employment opportunities and direct income in the Resource Area economy by less than 1 percent.

In the long-term, AUMs would increase by 31 percent from the 5-year average. This adjustment would increase total receipts from ranching by approximately \$1.5 million. Total receipts for the subsistence operation would increase by \$1,600, total receipts for the small operation would increase by \$5,400, and receipts for the medium and large operations would increase by \$14,200 and \$59,000, respectively. See Appendix K-3 for individual estimated costs and returns for representative ranch operations.

Under this alternative, the BLM grazing permit value for borrowing purposes would be approximately 12 percent above the existing preference level. This would mean an increase of \$3.1 million in the BLM grazing permit value from preference, giving the ranch operators more financial flexibility.

In the long-term under the MAX Alternative, 73 jobs would be gained in the Resource Area economy. Forty-three jobs would be added to

the range livestock industry and two in the other livestock industry. The remainder of the increase in employment opportunities would be distributed throughout the rest of the economy. The total increase in employment would represent a change of less than 1 percent in the Resource Area economy. The range livestock industry would experience a 15 percent increase in employment.

In the long-term, there would be an increase of \$715,000 in direct income in the Resource Area economy. The increase in direct income for the range livestock industry would be \$448,000, \$5,000 to the other livestock industry, and \$2,000 to the other agriculture industry. The remainder of the increase in direct income would be distributed throughout the rest of the Resource Area economy. The Resource Area economy would experience an increase in direct income of less than 1 percent. Total direct income to the range livestock industry would increase by approximately 15 percent.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV) Alternative

Under the EORV Alternative in the short-term, any measurable shifts in employment patterns or unemployment rates would not occur. The BLM Las Cruces District would expend approximately \$1.5 million for rangeland developments. This action would result in an additional 19 jobs and an increase of approximately \$187,000 in direct income for the Resource Area economy. Total direct income and employment for the Resource Area economy would increase by less than 1 percent. Approximately \$816,000 would be expended for vegetation treatments. This action would result in an additional 10 jobs and would increase direct income by approximately \$104,000 in the Resource Area economy. This action would result in an increase in employment and total direct income to the Resource Area economy of less than 1 percent.

There would be an decrease of approximately 36 percent in AUMs from the 5-year average. This would reduce total receipts from ranching by approximately \$1.5 million. Total receipts for the subsistence size operation would be reduced by \$2,505 for the subsistence operations, \$5,464 for the small operations, \$17,079 for the medium operations, and \$55,230 for the large operations.

The BLM grazing permit value for borrowing purposes would be reduced by approximately \$11.3 million (45 percent below preference) and would result in a corresponding decrease in the financial flexibility of ranch operations.

Under this alternative, AUMs for two allotments would be eliminated. This would affect one operator in the subsistence operation and one operator in the small operation. The operator in the subsistence operation would be unable to continue livestock grazing since the operation is 100 percent dependent on public land. The operator in the small operation would incur a 37.5 percent reduction in total AUMs.

Under this alternative in the short-term, employment would be reduced in the Resource Area economy by 77 jobs. This would account

for a less than 1 percent decrease in employment opportunities to the Resource Area economy. Forty-four jobs would be reduced in the range livestock industry. This would result in a 15 percent decrease in employment opportunities for the range livestock industry.

There would be a \$737,000 reduction in direct income in the Resource Area economy. This would account for a less than 1 percent decrease in total direct income to the Resource Area economy. The reduction in direct income in the range livestock industry would be approximately \$462,000. This would result in a 15 percent decrease in direct income to the range livestock industry.

Under this alternative in the long-term, the AUMs would be less than 1 percent below the 5-year average. This would decrease total receipts from ranching by approximately \$37,000. Total receipts for the subsistence operations would decrease by \$288, increase by \$68 for the small operations, increase by \$431 for the medium operations, and decrease by \$2,696 for the large operations. The one operator under the subsistence operation discussed under the worst case situation would still be unable to graze on public land. The operator in the small operation would have a reduction in AUMs of 37.5 percent.

In the long-term, two jobs in the Resource Area economy would be lost (a decrease of less than 1 percent in the Resource Area economy) and the range livestock industry would decrease employment by 1 job (a decrease of less than 1 percent to the range livestock industry). Total direct income would decrease in the Resource Area economy by \$19,484 (a decrease of less than 1 percent in the Resource Area economy), and the range livestock industry would decrease total direct income by \$12,000 (a change of 1 percent to the range livestock industry).

The BLM grazing permit value for borrowing purposes would be reduced by approximately 15 percent. This would mean a loss of approximately \$3.7 million in the BLM grazing permit value and a corresponding decrease in the financial flexibility of the ranch operators.

Summary

In the short-term, total direct income for the Resource Area economy would change to approximately \$274 million, a decrease of approximately \$737,000 from the existing \$275 million. Total employment for the Resource Area economy would change to 30,449, a decrease of 77 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs. Total receipts for all operations would be approximately \$6.2 million, a decrease of approximately \$1.5 million from the existing \$7.8 million.

In the long-term, total direct income for the Resource Area economy would change to \$275,680,944, a decrease of \$19,484 from the existing \$275,700,428. Total employment for the Resource Area economy would change to 30,524, a decrease of 2 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs. Total receipts for all operations would be approximately \$7.7 million, a decrease of approximately \$37,000 from the existing \$7.8 million.

Elimination of Livestock Grazing (ELG) Alternative

Under the ELG Alternative, small general stores in the Resource Area economy which depend somewhat on income derived from ranching would be affected. Significant, primary impacts would be on those livestock operators who are dependent on public land for grazing.

Under this alternative, elimination in permitted livestock grazing would reduce total receipts by approximately \$4.4 million in the long-term. A temporary increase in livestock sales and income would occur as herds would be diminished and livestock sold. Maximum increases in livestock sales would not last longer than 2 years.

Total receipts for subsistence, small, medium, and large operators would decrease by \$6,004; \$14,310; \$39,908; and \$173,615, respectively. All operations, except the large operators, would incur a loss of net income, however, all ranch size categories would continue to meet all cash costs and operators would continue to live off their depreciation.

Under this alternative, livestock operators would be forced to sell, supplemental feed, or graze approximately 60 percent of the total AUMs which are dependent on public land for grazing on private or state lands. Some livestock operators, due to reduced income, would leave the livestock industry and seek non-ranch jobs and other sources of income. Some of the livestock operators and their families could relocate to find suitable employment. The continued operation of most ranches would depend upon their prior level of dependency on public land for grazing and their ability to meet all cash costs after individual adjustments in levels of grazing.

The average herd size for the subsistence operation would decrease to 17 Animal Units (AUs) from 44 AUs. The small operation's average AUs would decrease to 54 AUs from 124 AUs. This operation would be reclassified as a subsistence operation. The medium operation's herd size would decrease to 102 AUs from 277 AUs. This operation would be reclassified as a small operation. The average herd size for the large size operation would decrease to 598 AUs from 1,272 AUs. This operation would remain classified as a large operation; however, the change in AUs would significantly affect the profitability of this operation as well as the others. This discussion indicates what would occur to the average ranching operation only, and does not imply that the reclassification of ranching operations would occur to all operations for each ranch size.

Employment in the Resource Area economy would be decreased by 215 jobs, a decrease of less than 1 percent in the Resource Area economy. Employment in the range livestock industry would decrease by 124 jobs. The range livestock industry would experience an 44 percent decrease in employment opportunities.

Direct income in the Resource Area economy would decrease by \$2 million accounting for a decrease in direct income of less than 1

percent in the Resource Area economy. The range livestock industry would decrease direct income by \$1.3 million.

Under this alternative, a dramatic impact on BLM grazing permit valuations would occur. The elimination of 251,497 AUMs would result in a decrease of \$25 million in BLM grazing permit values and a corresponding decrease in the financial flexibility of ranch operators. Under this alternative, the livestock operators would be unable to borrow money using public land AUMs.

Summary

Under the ELG Alternative, total direct income for the Resource Area economy would change to approximately \$273 million, a decrease of approximately \$2 million from the existing \$275 million. Total employment for the Resource Area economy would change to 30,311, a decrease of 215 jobs from the existing 30,526 jobs. Total receipts for all livestock operations would be approximately \$3.4 million, a decrease of approximately \$4.3 million from the existing \$7.8 million.

6. Contained surface waters such as dirt tanks, drinking troughs, etc., would be protected by a buffer strip or could be covered to eliminate surface water contamination. A buffer strip of 1,500 feet adjacent to perennial streams would be established. This would apply to areas adjacent to the perennial streams, ranch houses, known locations of threatened or endangered plants, identified cliffs, or major ephemeral drainages to surface water resources. A buffer zone of $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile from active nests will be identified and flagged.

7. To minimize drift and volatilization, aerial applications of all the liquid herbicides proposed for use would be confined to periods when wind speed is less than seven miles per hour, air temperature is under 85° F., precipitation is not occurring or imminent, and air turbulence would not affect normal spray patterns. Label directions would be followed if they require additional restrictions. Low volatile formulations would be used.

8. Daily measurements of weather conditions would be made by trained personnel at spray sites during liquid application. Additional measurements would be made at any time that a weather change appears to be taking place which could jeopardize safe placement of the spray on the target area.

9. Spray aircraft would normally be required to fly at an air speed of less than 100 mph and less than 50 feet above the vegetation unless obstructions are encountered. Nozzle size and pressure would be designed to produce droplets with a diameter of 200-500 microns. All aerial nozzles would be equipped with automatic shutoff devices to prevent loss of herbicide along nonspray flight routes. Spray mixtures would contain drift reduction adjuvants where they would be effective.

10. During air operations, a radio network would be maintained which links all parts of the project. Reconnaissance flights would be made before spraying begins to orient pilots as to locations of sensitive areas which are adjacent to spray targets.

11. All livestock would be removed from treated pastures prior to aerial spraying.

12. Grazing would not be permitted in treated pastures for a minimum of two growing seasons or 16 months following treatment. Applications would be in strict conformity with label instructions. Each applicator would be trained in the correct operation of spray equipment, prevention of plumbing leaks, safe handling and mixing of herbicides, control of application rate, and would be supervised by licensed personnel.

The overall responsibility for monitoring environmental impacts of chemical herbicides rests with the EPA (Public Law 92-516, Sec. 20). Research on environmental impacts of herbicides to animals, water, soil, and plants is conducted by chemical companies as a prerequisite to registration with the EPA. Additional research is conducted by Federal agencies and universities. The Bureau would keep abreast of these

APPENDIX B-1 (continued)

5. Pilots would be cautioned about dangers such as topographic features. Project maps would be reviewed with each pilot, paying particular attention to landing strips, areas being sprayed, and approaches to and from those areas.

6. Pilots would be cautioned as to the location of telephone and electric lines near any landing strip which would be used.

7. If an aircraft crashes, the pilot's clothing would be checked to see if he has been splashed with herbicide. If so, and if he is not seriously injured, he would be washed several times with soap.

8. Should a pilot be injured and taken to a hospital or doctor, they would be informed that the pilot has been exposed to a herbicide and they would be provided with any herbicide label information that is available.

Tanker Precautions:

1. An air gap or reservoir between the water source and the mixing tank would be required. A separate portable pump may be used.

2. Spray solutions would be mixed away from streams, drains, or ditches leading to streams where spills could reach a stream if they occurred.

3. The movement of loaded herbicide tankers would be planned to minimize travel adjacent to streams.

If Spills Occur:

In the event of a spill, the project inspector or crew foreman would immediately implement measures to contain the herbicide. The following individuals would be notified as soon as possible: 1. the area manager, 2. the district manager, 3. the State Office herbicide-use coordinator, and 4. the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, herbicide regulation division.

1. Herbicides would be contained by diking and collecting pools. The location and availability of earthmoving equipment close to the project would be noted.

2. The EPA would be notified immediately if a major spill should occur.

3. The surrounding area would be inspected for contamination.

Criteria used in the selection of herbicides are based on guidelines and policies issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior. These criteria are briefly outlined in the following discussion.

1. The chemical proposed for use is not prohibited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) or the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

APPENDIX B-1 (concluded)

2. Use of any chemical is aimed at a specific brush problem and involves both minimum strength and frequency of application.

3. Chemical herbicides would not be used alone when nonchemical or integrated chemical and nonchemical techniques offer an environmentally feasible alternative.

4. No herbicide would be used when there is evidence to show that:

a. Water quality would be degraded.

b. Hazards exist that would unnecessarily threaten fish, wildlife, their food chain, or other components of the natural environment.

5. Herbicides proposed for use must be registered by the U.S. EPA and the NMDA and be in accordance with Public Law 92-516. This law requires a determination by EPA that the chemical "will perform its intended function without unreasonable adverse effects on the environment." If registration of any herbicide is revoked or modified for rangeland use by the EPA, use of that herbicide by the Bureau will be terminated or modified accordingly.

6. The NMDA restricted use regulations, "Regulatory Order No. 9", will be consulted prior to any herbicide application.

APPENDIX B-2

METHODOLOGY - MODIFIED SOIL - VEGETATION INVENTORY AND DIGITIZING

Instructions for completing the modified soil-vegetation inventory, used in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area, were developed at the district level and modified from procedures described in BLM Manual 4412.14 and 4440.

This procedure can be described in six distinct phases: typing or mapping, transecting, digitizing, cross-correlation, compilation, and computation.

From January to September 1981, typing or mapping was done by soil-vegetation units on aerial photos. Vegetation was typed according to dominant species aspect. These units were then further divided to delineate areas with similar plant species composition and density. The final mapping unit was an area of similar vegetation occurring on the same soil and range site. These units were then called Site Write-up Areas (SWAs).

Sampling of each SWA was done by transects traversing the soil-vegetation unit in a manner which obtained a representative sample of the SWA from October 1981 to January 1982. A minimum of one 100-point pace transect was done on each SWA. Information recorded at each 100 points along the line include basal hits identifying ground cover as live vegetation, litter, small rock, large rock, and bare ground. Live vegetation was identified by plant species. Hits were identified by a notch on the toe of the sole of the transector's boot, 1/8 inch wide and 1/16 inch deep. Canopy vegetative cover, if present, was recorded up to three levels above the boot.

Information on vegetation production was obtained at three evenly spaced plots across the SWA along the transect line. Weight-estimate plots of 9.6 or 96.0 square feet were used. At least one of the three plots were clipped and weighed. Green weight in grams for each plant species occurring in the plot was recorded. Adjustment factors used to convert green weights to dry weights were determined from samples collected during the inventory, air dried and percentages of dry weight to green weight calculated.

Compilation of acres by land status for each SWA, allotment, range site, vegetative subtype, and condition class was done through the BLM digitizing system. Land status was transferred to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps and entered into the system as Overlay 1. Allotments and SWAs were entered on consecutive overlays. The digitizing system computed acres by superimposing these overlays to give acres by land status, SWA, and allotment or a combination of these. This system was further refined with cross-correlation programs so acres could be retrieved by range site, vegetative subtype, and condition class.

Vegetative mathematical computations were done by the BLM computer system. The first calculation converted green weight in grams

APPENDIX B-2 (concluded)

to dry weight in pounds. Utilization adjustments to convert all field data to maximum production for the entire growing season were made at the time of clipping to assume an ungrazed situation. The final calculations computed total production of each vegetative species in pounds per acre per SWA.

An analysis of the final calculated data indicates some inconsistency in pounds of vegetative production between areas of similar type vegetation with similar species composition and density. This inconsistency was most noticeable in areas where the vegetation grows in patterns which are not uniform, primarily dune type mesquite vegetation.

This inconsistency is attributed to plot size and number of plots sampled. Insufficient number of samples or size of the area sampled would tend to overestimate the production as often as it would underestimate the production.

Because of the indicated inconsistencies, forage production data derived from the survey was not used for determining grazing capacity on individual allotments. It was, however, used as a basis for describing the existing environment and assessing the impacts on the proposed action and various alternatives. This assessment was done by averaging numerous numbers from the various range sites and vegetative subtypes. The averaging process would eliminate most of the inconsistencies of overestimation or underestimation which existed in the field data.

APPENDIX B-4

METHODOLOGY - ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

The ecological condition on areas within a range site was determined by comparing the present plant community with the climax plant community. Potential plant communities on all range sites are described in Technical Guides available from the USDA Soil Conservation Service (1980).

Four classes are used to express the degree to which the composition of the present plant community reflects that of the climax community (SCS 1976). The four classes are:

<u>Rangeland Condition Class</u>	<u>Percentage of present plant community that is climax for the range site</u>
Excellent	76-100
Good	51-75
Fair	26-50
Poor	0-25

Percent composition of each species for the existing plant community cannot exceed the percent composition of the same species in climax, as shown in the guide for the climax plant community. The amount of all climax species not in excess of that shown on the guide is totaled to indicate the relative ecological condition rating. This rating will be between 0 and 100. An example of the calculations for a loamy range site occurring in the Western Plateau MLRA is shown below.

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Maximum Percent Composition</u>	<u>Present Percent Composition</u>	<u>Adjusted Percent Composition</u>
Aristida	2	3	2
Sideoats grama	10	1	1
Blue grama	30	87	30
Apacheplume	0	6	0
Prickly pear	3	2	2
			<u>35</u>

The total adjusted rating was 35 which indicates a fair ecological condition class rating. The primary reason for a low rating of 35 for this site was the lack of other species which would occur in a climax plant community. Ecological condition by itself may not necessarily describe the productivity of a site or indicate its value for the grazing of livestock, watershed protection, or wildlife management objectives. However, it is an appropriate measure to use to compare the existing plant community with the potential for a particular range site. See definitions for ecological condition (page GL-5) and forage value class (page GL-6). A climax community may not be desirable from a grazing management standpoint.

APPENDIX D-2 (continued)

25. Bell's vireo (Vireo bellii) NM 2 - may affect
26. Varied bunting (Passerina versicolor) NM 2 - no effect
27. Baird's sparrow (Ammodramus bairdii) NM 2 - may affect (beneficial)
28. Yellow-eyed junco (Junco phaeonotus palliatus) NM 2 - no effect
29. McCown's longspur (Calcarius mccownii) NM 2- may affect (beneficial)
30. Bunchgrass lizard (Sceloporus scalaris) NM 2 - no effect
31. Mountain skink (Eumeces callicephalus) NM 2 - may affect (beneficial)
32. Giant spotted whiptail lizard (Cnemidophorus burti strictogrammus)
NM 2 - may affect (beneficial)
33. Dixon's whiptail lizard (Cnemidophorus dixonii) NM 2 - may affect
34. Gila monster (Heloderma suspectum) NM 1 - may affect
35. Narrow-headed garter snake (Thamnophis rufipunctatus) NM 2 - may
affect (beneficial)
36. (Sonora) coachwhip (Masticophis flagellum cingulum) NM 2 - no effect
37. Trans-Pecos ratsnake (Elaphe subocularis) NM 2 - may affect
38. Sonora Mountain kingsnake (Lampropeltis pyromelana pyromelana)
NM 2 - no effect
39. (Arizona black) western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis cerberus)
NM 2 - no effect
40. Colorado river toad (Bufo alvarius) NM 2 - no effect
41. Mexican tetra (Astyanax mexicanus) NM 2 - no effect
42. Roundtail chub (Gila robusta grahami) NM 2 - may affect (beneficial)
43. Bluntnose shiner (Notropis simus) NM 1 - no effect

STATE-LISTED SPECIAL CONCERN ELEMENT
PLANTS AND ANIMALS

(New Mexico Heritage Program)

1. Acacia angustissima suffrutescens Peripheral - narrow - may affect
2. Acacia millefolia Peripheral - narrow - may affect
3. Agastache verticillata Endemic 1 - no effect

APPENDIX D-2 (continued)

4. Ageratum corymbosum Peripheral - narrow - may affect
5. Aletes filifolius State sensitive - may affect
6. Amsonia arenaria Endemic 2 - may affect
7. Arabis angulata Endemic 1 - may affect
8. Aspicarpa hirtella Peripheral - no effect
9. Astragalus cobrensis maguirei Endemic 2 - may affect
10. Brachystigma wrightii Peripheral - narrow - no effect
11. Brickellia lemmonii Endemic 2 - no effect
12. Brickellia simplex Peripheral - narrow - no effect
13. Calandrinia ciliata menziesii Peripheral - narrow - no effect
14. Castilleja organorum Endemic 1 - may affect (beneficial)
15. Cerastium texanum Peripheral - narrow - may affect
16. Cheilanthes pringlei (Pringle's cheilanthes) Endemic 2 - no effect
17. Coryphantha orcuttii koenigii Endemic 1 - no effect
18. Coryphantha orcuttii macraxina Endemic 1 - no effect
19. Coryphantha orcuttii orcuttii Endemic 2 - no effect
20. Coryphantha organensis Endemic 1 - may affect (beneficial)
21. Cuphea wrightii Peripheral - narrow - no effect
22. Cupressus arizonica (Arizona cypress) Peripheral - broad - no effect
23. Dalea pulchra Peripheral - narrow - may affect
24. Delphinium occidentale quercicola Endemic 1 - no effect
25. Draba mogollonica State Sensitive - no effect
26. Draba standleyi Endemic 1 - may affect (beneficial)
27. Echinocereus lloydii (Lloyd's hedgehog cactus) Endemic 2 - may affect
28. Eriogonum densum State Sensitive - no effect
29. Eryngium sparganophyllum Endemic 2 - no effect
30. Erysimum desertorum Endemic 1 - may affect

APPENDIX D-2 (continued)

31. Eustoma exaltatum (Prairie gentian) Rare - no effect
32. Eysenhardia polystachya (Kidney wood) Peripheral - narrow - no effect
33. Gomphrena sonorae Peripheral - narrow - no effect
34. Graptopetalum rusbyi Endemic 2 - no effect
35. Grindelia arizonica var. dentata Endemic 1 - no effect
36. Habenaria sparsiflora var. brevifolia Endemic 2 - no effect
37. Halophyton crookii State Sensitive - may affect
38. Hymenoxys olivacea Endemic 1 - no effect
39. Ipomoea egregia Endemic 2 - no effect
40. Ipomopsis macombii Peripheral - narrow - may affect
41. Jatropha macrorhiza Peripheral - narrow - may affect
42. Macheranthera amplifolia Endemic 2 - no effect
43. Mammillaria heyderi bullingtoniana Peripheral - broad - no effect
44. Mammillaria heyderi macdougallii Peripheral - narrow - no effect
45. Mammillaria viridiflora Endemic 2 - no effect
46. Mecardonia vandellioides Peripheral - narrow - may affect
47. Metastelma arizonicum Peripheral - narrow - may affect
48. Milla biflora (Mexican star lily) Peripheral - narrow - no effect
49. Mimulus cordatus Endemic 1 - may affect
50. Mimosa grahamii Endemic 2 - may affect
51. Opuntia wootonii Endemic 1 - may affect
52. Oxalis pilosa Peripheral - narrow - may affect
53. Pectocarya recurvata Peripheral - narrow - may affect
54. Penstemon dasyphyllus Endemic 2 - may affect
55. Penstemon lanceolatus Endemic 2 - may affect
56. Penstemon superbus Peripheral - narrow - may affect
57. Perityle lemmonii State sensitive - no effect

APPENDIX D-2 (concluded)

58. Perityle staurophylla var. homoflora State Sensitive - no effect
59. Phacelia intermedia Endemic 2 - may affect
60. Phacelia neomexicana Endemic 2 - no effect
61. Phacelia tenuipes Endemic 1 - may affect
62. Phanerophlebia auriculata Peripheral - narrow - no effect
63. Philadelphus argentatus Peripheral - narrow - may affect
64. Philadelphus mearnsii Endemic 2 - may affect
65. Pinus edulis fallax Endemic 2 - no effect
66. Plummera ambigens Endemic 2 - no effect
67. Porophyllum gracile Peripheral - narrow - may affect
68. Porophyllum ruderale macrocephalum Peripheral - narrow - may affect
69. Rubus exrubicundus Endemic 2 - no effect
70. Sageretia wrightii Peripheral - narrow - may affect
71. Salvia summa Endemic 2 - no effect
72. Schistophragma intermedia Endemic 2 - no effect
73. Scrophularia laevis Endemic 1 - may affect (beneficial)
74. Senecio salignus Peripheral - narrow - may affect
75. Sicyos glaber Endemic 1 - may affect (beneficial)
76. Silene plankii Endemic 1 - no effect
77. Silene thurberi Peripheral - narrow - may affect
78. Silene wrightii Endemic 2 - no effect
79. Sophora formosa Endemic 2 - no effect
80. Sphaeralcea emoryi variabilis Peripheral - narrow - may affect
81. Sphaeralcea procera Endemic 1 - may affect
82. Stellaria nitens State Sensitive - no effect
83. Stipa curvifolia Endemic 2 - may affect
84. Talinum longipes Endemic 1 - may affect
85. Tiquilia gossypina Peripheral - narrow - may affect

TABLE E-1 (concluded)
AREAS OF CONCERN AND PROPOSED STIPULATION

Name	Proposed Action	No Action	Maximization of Energy Minerals Leasing	Enhancement of Other Resource Values	Resource Protected
Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PPs) (cont.)					
Observatory Sites					
(NMSU) Astronomical Research (Donna Ana)	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Research
(Northwestern University) Astronomical Research and Educational Purposes (Donna Ana)	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Research
School Sites					
Gadsden Elementary	LC 9	Open	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Gadsden High School (Proposed)	LC 9	Open	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Recreational Use Areas					
Grant County--Scientific, Educational, and Recreational Use	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Hidalgo County--Recreational Use	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 9	Recreation & Public Purposes
Las Cruces Shooting Range	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 9	Recreation & Public Purposes
Luna County--Public Recreation Area	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 9	Recreation & Public Purposes
Spring Canyon (Luna)--Public Park and Recreation Area	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 9	Recreation & Public Purposes
Village of Central (Grant)--Municipal Park and Roadside Rest Area (Proposed) West Mesa Park (Donna Ana)	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 9	Recreation & Public Purposes
Miscellaneous					
Educational Television Site (Donna Ana)	LC 10	LC 10	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Prison Site (Donna Ana)	LC 16	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Water Tanks-Silver City (Grant)	LC 16	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
City Expansion (Las Cruces)	LC 9	LC 9	Open	LC 9	Recreation & Public Purposes
Airports					
Hatch	LC 16	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Las Cruces-Crawford	LC 16	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Southern Donna Ana Airport	LC 16	LC 9	Open	LC 16	Recreation & Public Purposes
Other Areas					
Atano Hueco Mountains (Bighorn Habitat Area)	LC 14	LC 14	Open	LC 14	T or E Plants and Bighorn Sheep
Big Hatchet Mountains (Bighorn Habitat Area)	LC 14	LC 14	Open	LC 14	T or E Plants and Bighorn Sheep
Butterfield Trail (well preserved ruts) (Proposed)	Open	Open	Open	LC 19	Cultural Resources
Cooke's Range (Wildlife) (Proposed)	LC 18	a/	Open	LC 16	Raptor Nesting/Wildlife
Cowboy Spring (Bighorn Reintroduction Area) (Proposed)	LC 14	a/	Open	LC 16	Bighorn Sheep/Wildlife
Florida Mountains Raptor Nesting Area (Proposed)	LC 18	Open	Open	LC 16	Raptor Nesting/Wildlife
Fort Cummings	NOL	NOL	Open	NOL	Cultural Resources
Franklin Mountains (South) (Proposed)	LC 14	Open	Open	LC 16	T or E/Recreation
Franklin Mountains (North) (Proposed)	Open	Open	Open	LC 20	Recreation/T or E
Gila River--	LC 14	a/	Open	LC 16	Riparian Habitat/Wildlife
Gila River Valley	a/	LC 14	Open	a/	Wildlife/Visual
Soils Area (Proposed)	a/	Open	Open	LC 16	Soils
Hadley Draw Riparian Area (Proposed)	LC 14	Open	Open	LC 16	Wildlife (Riparian)
Massacre Peak (Petroglyph Area)	NOL	NOL	Open	NOL	Cultural Resources
NMSU College Ranch	LC 12	LC 12	Open	LC 12	Range Experiments
Oldtown (Proposed)	LC 19	Open	Open	LC 16	Cultural Resources
Organ Mountains (Wildlife) (Proposed)	LC 18	a/	Open	LC 16	Raptor Nesting/Wildlife
Peñoncillo Mountains (Wildlife Habitat Area) (Proposed)	LC 14	a/	Open	LC 14	T or E Plants and Bighorn Sheep
Peñoncillo Mountains (Crucial Habitat Area) (Existing)	a/	LC 14	Open	a/	Cultural Resources
Pony Hills	LC 14	Open	Open	NOL	Wildlife/Riparian Habitat
Redrock Game Farm (Proposed)	LC 14	Open	Open	NOL	Wildlife/Riparian Habitat
San Simon Cienega	LC 14	LC 14	Open	LC 14	Wildlife/Riparian Habitat
San Simon Cienega Riparian Area (Proposed)	LC 14	a/	Open	LC 16	Wildlife/Riparian Habitat
Chihuahua Chub Critical Habitat (Proposed)	NOL	Open	Open	NOL	Critical Habitat (Proposed)

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office files, 1982.

Note: a/This area is covered in whole or in part within another area, with a stipulation to protect the same or similar values (see Overlays 2 and 3).

APPENDIX F-1

ACREAGE AND FORAGE ALLOCATION BY ALLOTMENT

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Acres Public Land	Acres Other Ownership	Total Allotment Acreage	Present Allocations (AUMs)				5-Year Average Licensed Use	Proposed Forage Allocations (Federal AUMs)			Changes from Preference (AUMs)	Projected Goal by Year 2010 (Federal AUMs)		
					Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	Big Game (Federal)	Preference (Federal)	Livestock		Big Game	Preference (AUMs)	Livestock		Big Game		
Hidalgo County																
1001	C. Adams and Sons (Allen Foster)	6,690	2,406	9,096	900	0	456	459	459	15	+3	911	22			
1002	Animas (Houston Moore)	960	0	960	216	0	216	216	216	0	0	216	0			
1003	J.W. Adams Estate	2,260	800	3,060	636	0	456	368	368	7	-88	368	10			
1005	Bagwell Farms Inc.	400	780	1,180	240	12	60	60	60	0	0	120	0			
1541	Bagwell Farms Inc.	320	0	320	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	0	0			
*1006	Bertoglio-Merrill	20,627	5,540	26,167	4,332	72	3,336	3,041	3,041	13	-295	3,129	17			
1008	C.W. Butler	5,412	4,123	9,535	2,232	0	1,152	1,066	1,066	24	-86	706	32			
1009	Cienega Ranch (Gaby Hayes)	29,110	14,579	43,689	5,702	0	4,349	2,086	2,086	197	-2,263	3,899	251			
1010	Steins Mountain (Lance Williams)	10,559	10,092	20,651	2,508	36	1,488	1,480	1,480	0	-8	1,480	0			
1012	Frank T. Croom - North	8,545	808	9,353	1,384	12	1,132	814	814	9	-318	1,217	13			
1013	Frank T. Croom - South	1,985	800	2,785	744	0	600	570	570	12	-30	542	17			
1014	Lordsburg Mesa (Gulberston Ranches)	36,851	52,559	89,410	14,400	0	5,760	5,760	5,760	11	0	5,946	17			
1015	James S. Cureton	7,560	11,976	19,536	3,912	84	1,416	1,411	1,411	0	-5	1,411	0			
1016	J.R. and C. Donaldson	2,400	320	2,720	360	24	288	288	288	0	0	282	0			
1017	Clinton E. Dunagan	2,892	4,667	7,559	1,950	128	532	532	532	27	+4	298	38			
1505	Clinton E. Dunagan	510	0	510	192	0	192	192	192	0	0	0	0			
1018	Edward Elbrock	2,990	900	3,890	900	0	684	684	684	0	-21	663	0			
1019	Bessie A. Estes (Evans and Washburn)	3,756	1,960	5,716	996	1	588	589	589	9	+1	681	11			
1021	Lightning Rock (Alan S. Goodwin)	2,866	2,148	5,014	900	0	540	449	449	0	-91	449	0			
1024	Rita and Janaloo Hill	6,580	2,901	9,481	1,044	0	684	463	463	0	-221	463	0			
1025	Rainbow Wash (Andy Peterson)	6,142	4,674	10,816	1,608	0	840	670	670	3	-170	903	4			
1026	Gold Hill Canyon (W.D. Ranch Inc.)	11,626	12,763	24,389	3,348	0	1,380	1,235	1,235	0	-145	2,374	0			
1538	Holliday Logging Inc. (W.D. Ranch Inc.)	1,202	0	1,202	204	0	204	204	204	0	0	0	0			
*1027	George R. Jackson, Jr.	5,513	2,650	8,163	1,536	24	972	841	841	0	-131	548	0			
1028	Robert Johns	2,644	60	2,704	288	0	288	307	307	0	+19	307	0			
1029	Robert Johns	960	320	1,280	288	0	192	162	162	0	-30	162	0			
1030	Alfred Johnson	9,058	2,738	11,796	1,740	24	1,152	1,134	1,134	23	-18	1,370	32			
1031	Muriel F. Johnson	320	0	320	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0			
1032	Fred Kerr, Sr. - East	6,768	6,013	12,781	1,776	0	624	230	230	0	-394	629	0			
1545	Fred Kerr, Sr.	80	0	80	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	0	0			
1033	Karry K. Klump	3,333	0	3,333	660	12	660	540	540	0	-120	540	0			
1034	Ted and Mona Larson	17,714	29,490	47,204	5,448	12	1,860	1,852	1,852	0	-8	1,047	0			
1035	J.E. Little	2,460	80	2,540	132	0	120	80	80	0	-40	80	0			
1038	Murel G. and Myra Mahan	3,320	3,280	6,600	768	0	276	231	231	0	-45	231	0			
1551	Murel G. and Myra Mahan	440	0	440	24	0	24	20	20	0	-4	0	0			
*1041	John T. Muir - West	34,042	16,127	50,169	7,404	494	4,904	4,709	4,709	63	-235	8,085	79			
1042	Ona O. McCants - West (Alan Kerr)	4,761	1,570	6,331	300	0	192	43	43	0	-149	43	0			
1043	Coat Canyon (Thomas McCants)	480	0	480	36	0	36	15	15	0	-21	15	0			
*1044	J.V. McCarty	9,519	1,854	11,373	1,416	0	1,212	806	806	30	-406	1,831	37			
1048	Donald L. Frasier	11,143	1,920	13,063	2,160	48	1,740	1,092	1,092	50	-648	2,011	64			
1050	Richard Searle	11,922	2,544	14,466	2,640	0	2,232	2,219	2,219	31	-13	2,370	34			
1052	Antelope Pass - Adeline Hill	4,183	1,100	5,283	867	12	607	607	607	0	-5	607	18			
1053	Edna S. Peterson (Andy Peterson)	3,286	1,427	4,713	677	0	473	330	330	0	-143	330	0			
1055	R.M. Reynolds Estate	5,960	9,389	15,349	2,568	24	996	856	856	0	-140	914	0			
1547	R.H. Reynolds Estate	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	0	0			
1056	Richins Inc.	4,160	1,320	5,480	288	0	216	216	216	0	0	216	0			
1057	Swallow Fork Peak (House Cattle Co.)	5,530	9,445	14,975	2,340	0	888	827	827	0	-61	917	0			
1058	C.F. Sanford - North (Alfred Johnson)	1,720	140	1,860	204	0	156	157	157	0	+1	181	0			
1546	C.F. Sanford - North (Alfred Johnson)	145	0	145	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	0	0			
1059	Robert Shay	35,591	12,011	47,602	8,904	48	6,240	5,925	5,925	0	-315	5,348	0			
1060	Andrew Monroe Smith	6,406	4,005	10,411	1,800	0	744	567	567	3	-177	785	3			
1061	Steeple Rock (Randell Thygeson)	1,810	1,775	3,585	720	0	324	324	324	0	0	324	0			
1062	Andy Peterson	11,710	6,688	18,398	2,904	0	1,824	1,162	1,162	0	-662	1,602	0			
1063	Andy Peterson	7,605	1,920	9,525	1,498	24	1,210	877	877	0	-333	1,587	0			
1064	Andy Peterson	400	0	400	84	0	84	84	84	0	0	84	0			
1065	George Wright Place (Harriet Green)	800	0	800	96	0	96	96	96	0	0	96	0			
1066	Pacific Western (Victorio Co.)	4,200	0	4,200	1,056	0	1,056	1,056	1,056	171	0	2,303	240			
1068	J.R. Walter	11,738	3,868	15,606	888	0	528	479	479	0	-09	479	0			
1069	R.H. Wamel et al	9,835	13,160	22,995	3,084	0	1,104	424	424	0	-680	804	0			
1554	R.H. Wamel et al	1,400	0	1,400	312	0	312	278	278	0	-34	0	0			

APPENDIX F-1 (continued)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Acres Public Land	Acres Other Ownership	Total Allotment Acreage	Present Allocations (AUMs)				5-Year Average Licensed Use	Proposed Forage Allocations (Federal AUMs)			Projected Goal by Year 2010 (Federal AUMs)		
					Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	Big Game (Federal)	Preference (Federal)	Livestock		Big Game	Preference (AUMs)	Livestock	Big Game		
Hidalgo County (continued)															
1070	Johnson and Evans	5,113	5,721	10,834	2,328	24	1,104	1,092	1,092	0	-12		955	0	
1555	Johnson and Evans	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0		0	0	
1071	Weatherby Ranch	3,543	2,420	5,963	1,152	24	696	692	692	6	-4		920	7	
1072	Cleason Family Trust	3,474	2,805	6,279	480	0	300	32	32	0	-268		32	0	
1073	Herbert J. Young	11,624	23,588	35,212	7,320	24	2,760	2,511	2,511	373	-249		2,596	506	
1074	Jerry Veck	1,015	720	1,735	336	0	216	118	118	0	-98		137	0	
1537	Jerry Veck	160	0	160	24	0	24	19	19	0	-5		0	0	
1076	Robert Johns	2,150	1,280	3,430	480	0	288	223	223	0	-65		293	0	
1077	John T. Muir (South)	578	0	578	108	0	108	108	108	0	0		108	0	
1078	Caprock (Pat and Mike Laney)	30,028	7,439	37,467	6,132	0	4,884	4,844	4,844	0	-40		6,087	0	
1079	Fred Kerr, Sr. - West	1,483	1,600	3,083	504	0	180	95	95	0	-85		95	0	
1080	Young Place (Victorio Co.)	60	0	60	12	0	12	11	11	0	-1		11	0	
2016	Mountain Ranch (Richard Faulkner)	6,560	640	7,200	1,368	0	1,248	566	566	0	-682		566	0	
2022	U-Bar Ranch (Pacific Western)	39,006	92,162	131,168	26,724	300	7,608	5,650	5,650	42	-1,958		4,368	344	
1510	Cray Ranch Co. U-Bar (Pacific Western)	19,896	0	19,896	4,548	0	4,548	4,318	4,318	0	-230		4,271	0	
2024	Heard Ranch (Pacific Western)	14,026	6,924	21,750	2,196	24	1,756	1,177	1,177	55	-179		2,782	247	
*2027	Hatchet Ranch (M. Ewerhart)	115,729	42,757	158,486	19,653	0	13,944	13,373	13,373	184	-571		13,010	317	
2045	J.E. and Billie Smith (Hatchet Ranch)	9,245	3,245	12,490	2,160	0	1,920	1,218	1,218	15	-702		1,536	49	
1501	Allen Foster	2,480	0	2,480	528	0	528	528	528	33	0		528	67	
1502	Mrs. Joe D. Croon	150	0	150	24	0	24	24	24	0	0		24	0	
1506	Dunagan Land and Cattle Co.	3,965	0	3,965	816	0	816	816	816	14	0		816	30	
1507	Mrs. Jeff L. Dunagan (Lenora Rand)	145	0	145	24	0	24	24	24	0	0		24	0	
1508	Robert and Jessie Evans	4,228	0	4,228	756	0	756	756	756	48	0		756	108	
1509	Codfroy Place (Victorio Co.)	3,080	0	3,080	600	0	600	600	600	0	0		600	0	
1511	44 Ranch (Victorio Co.)	440	0	440	108	0	108	108	108	0	0		108	0	
*1512	Drummond Hadley	4,785	0	4,785	1,140	0	1,140	1,111	1,111	0	-29		951	0	
1514	Joe S. Jackson	4,240	0	4,240	1,020	0	1,020	1,020	1,020	13	0		1,020	29	
1515	William Kaubitch	1,018	0	1,018	144	0	144	144	144	1	0		144	3	
1516	Kimble Brothers	1,360	0	1,360	324	0	324	324	324	3	0		324	8	
1517	Luther Wallace Klump	3,257	0	3,257	576	0	576	576	576	12	0		576	27	
1518	Jakie McGants	160	0	160	36	0	36	36	36	0	0		36	0	
1519	Cascabel Land and Cattle	600	0	600	192	0	192	192	192	0	0		192	0	
1520	Post Office Canyon (W.C. Miller)	1,717	0	1,717	336	0	336	336	336	5	0		336	11	
1521	James F. Richards	1,450	0	1,450	108	0	108	108	108	11	0		108	24	
1522	Richard C. Richards	640	0	640	180	0	180	180	180	0	0		180	0	
1523	W.C. and Ruby Richards	1,190	0	1,190	144	0	144	144	144	12	0		144	26	
1524	C.E. Roark	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0		12	0	
1526	R.T. and K.T. Scholes	2,511	0	2,511	672	0	672	672	672	3	0		672	8	
1527	Richard Winkler	3,505	0	3,505	504	0	504	504	504	17	0		504	41	
1528	Virginia Slover	1,300	0	1,300	312	0	312	312	312	0	0		312	1	
1532	Upshaw (Victorio Co.)	320	0	320	72	0	72	72	72	0	0		72	7	
1533	Woodard Place (Harriet Green)	150	0	150	36	0	36	36	36	0	0		36	0	
1534	W.H. Walter, Sr.	1,399	0	1,399	324	0	324	324	324	2	0		324	4	
1536	Clayton Yarbrough	2,020	0	2,020	324	0	324	324	324	1	0		324	2	
1539	Billy Dacoll	1,080	0	1,080	156	0	156	156	156	0	0		156	0	
1540	Jewel Bitstrong	1,079	0	1,079	204	0	204	204	204	16	0		204	35	
1542	W.H. Walter, Jr.	1,681	0	1,681	312	0	312	312	312	2	0		312	4	
1543	Cray Ranch (Victorio Co.)	2,964	0	2,964	612	0	612	612	612	0	0		612	0	
1544	Muriel F. Johnson	2,293	0	2,293	372	0	372	372	372	0	0		372	0	
1548	George E. Pendleton	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0		12	0	
1549	Timberlake (Victorio Co.)	4,320	0	4,320	948	0	948	948	948	0	0		948	0	
1553	Alan Koff	190	0	190	36	0	36	36	36	0	0		36	0	
1556	Keeler	2,968	0	2,968	540	0	540	540	540	3	0		540	8	
2532	Great Lakes - Hatchita (Pacific Western)	2,680	0	2,680	564	0	564	564	564	0	0		564	0	
TOTAL - HIDALGO COUNTY															
		743,214	460,986	1,204,200	192,381	875	114,192	100,440	100,440	1,569	-13,752		114,012	2,845	
Luna County															
2003	Columbus Development Board (Lee Baker)	10,365	5,263	15,628	1,699	11	1,099	1,099	1,099	0	0		1,099	0	
*2004	Allen and R. Borde	26,959	4,040	30,999	4,200	48	3,612	2,276	2,276	0	-1,336		3,332	0	
2005	Florida Ranch (Mattie McCauley)	4,011	617	4,628	960	0	840	847	847	0	+7		847	0	

APPENDIX F-1 (continued)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Acres Public Land	Acres Other Ownership	Total Allotment Acreage	Present Allocations (AUMs)				5-Year Average Licensed Use	Proposed Forage Allocations (Federal AUMs)			Changes from Preference (AUMs)	Projected Goal by Year 2010 (Federal AUMs)	
					Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	Big Game (Federal)	Preference (Federal)	Livestock		Big Game	Livestock	Game			
Luna County (continued)															
2006	Zay S. Clopton	45,115	5,820	50,935	8,832	80	7,788	7,772	7,772	0	-16	7,772	0		
2007	Nathan W. Crawford	5,818	2,506	8,324	696	0	444	444	444	5	0	924	7		
2008	Neal E. Crawford (Lee Baker)	5,403	1,476	6,879	624	0	516	516	516	3	0	866	5		
2009	Hockwell Davis (Tom Hyatt)	5,330	1,280	6,610	684	0	504	413a/	413	0	-151	605	0		
2012	Tom Miller	2,720	0	2,720	504	0	504	504	504	0	0	504	0		
2528	Tom Miller	710	0	710	180	0	180	180	180	0	0	180	0		
*2013	Burdick Hills (Alamo Ranch Co.)	78,498	48,773	127,271	20,778	280	12,004	9,177	9,177	0	-2,827	10,902	0		
2535	Burdick Hills - West (Alamo Ranch Co.)	178	0	178	26	0	26	24	24	0	-2	0	0		
2014	Cedar Grove (Thomas Killwood)	19,757	3,917	23,674	4,219	140	3,168	2,916	2,916	6	-352	2,899	9		
2015	Black Top (Bobby Gean Fairall)	4,720	2,240	6,960	1,536	24	1,032	1,042	1,042	0	+10	654	0		
2017	Flying W Ranch (Richard Faulkner)	20,917	4,342	25,259	4,200	84	3,612	2,264	2,264	1	-1,348	3,226	1		
2018	Russell Baker	12,157	1,699	13,856	2,160	24	1,764	1,772	1,772	5	+8	2,790	10		
2019	William Jarvis (Spear 7 Ranch)	15,540	2,811	18,351	1,380	12	1,200	1,068	1,068	0	-132	1,078	0		
2020	C.W. Gaines	2,665	0	2,665	432	12	432	387a/	387	0	-45	409	0		
2533	C.W. Gaines	160	0	160	24	0	24	22a/	22	0	-2	0	0		
2021	Carl Graham	3,080	1,895	4,975	948	0	540	549	549	0	+9	605	0		
2025	Gerald Greenan	7,990	1,940	9,930	2,451	0	1,983	1,974	1,974	61	-9	1,857	92		
2026	Sam Teague (Claude Leyendecker)	2,525	666	3,191	360	0	288	288	288	0	0	288	0		
2028	Joe and Frank Hervol	1,760	2,720	4,480	612	12	276	276	276	0	0	276	0		
2029	Rosa May (Carl Hogsland)	1,174	1,232	2,406	540	24	264	264	264	0	0	264	0		
2030	Nimble Mountain Bush (L.B. Hyatt)	11,057	5,800	16,857	2,592	0	1,548	1,103	1,103	51	-445	1,739	80		
2032	W.R. Johnson and Son	15,728	5,209	20,937	4,826	36	3,456	3,239	3,239	0	-217	2,930	0		
2033	Koenig Ranch	24,535	7,670	32,205	3,552	0	2,436	1,194	1,194	31	-1,242	2,703	47		
2536	Koenig Ranch	320	0	320	36	0	36	36	36	0	0	36	0		
*2034	Hashed O Venture (Tom Cooper)	70,340	16,007	86,347	14,760	252	12,228	8,857	8,857	7	-3,371	12,323	11		
2540	Hashed O Venture (Tom Cooper)	260	0	260	36	0	36	36	36	0	0	36	0		
2035	May, Inc.	9,220	9,266	18,486	3,272	0	1,500	1,302	1,302	48	-198	1,451	0		
2539	May, Inc.	800	0	800	252	0	252	239	239	0	-13	0	0		
2036	Rosa and Anita May	10,290	2,160	12,450	1,648	0	1,348	1,214	1,214	0	-134	1,298	0		
2038	Ed W. Nunn, Jr. (SR)	15,624	9,603	25,227	6,576	0	3,948	3,155	3,155	0	-793	3,155	0		
2039	Joe B. Nunn	506	2,760	3,266	624	0	96	96	96	1	0	299	3		
2518	Joe B. Nunn	760	0	760	144	0	144	144	144	0	0	144	0		
*2040	Black Mountain Ranch	12,203	3,005	15,208	2,712	0	1,620	932	932	0	-688	1,703	0		
2041	Della Perez (Tom Perez)	7,180	2,800	9,980	554	0	552	554	554	2	-2	590	2		
2042	T. Perez Fount	5,603	2,781	8,384	1,416	0	864	603	603	0	-261	407	0		
2043	Shelby Phillips	15,114	17,441	32,555	4,596	0	1,716	1,367	1,367	0	-349	1,381	0		
2537	Shelby Phillips	1,442	0	1,442	168	0	168	168	168	0	0	168	0		
*2044	William and Mary Snyder	13,511	3,005	16,516	2,880	12	2,364	2,071	2,071	7	-293	2,346	11		
2047	Barney Teague	840	0	840	84	0	84	84	84	0	0	84	0		
2048	Sam Teague et al. (Claude Leyendecker)	592	0	592	120	0	120	120	120	0	0	120	0		
2053(3016)	POL West (Lawrence Herrmann)	2,930	0	2,930	260	0	260	260	260	0	0	260	0		
2028	Hyatt and Hyatt (Tom Hyatt)	32,918	13,977	46,895	9,312	24	6,768	4,778	4,778	17	-1,990	6,347	26		
2501	W.T. Anderson	1,620	0	1,620	108	0	108	108	108	0	0	108	0		
2502	Marguerite Benedict	1,080	0	1,080	144	0	144	144	144	0	0	144	0		
2503	Red Mountain Ranch (J. Cottrell)	2,363	0	2,363	240	0	240	212	212	0	-28	212	0		
2505	Black Mountain Ranch	2,962	0	2,962	420	0	420	420	420	0	0	420	0		
2506	Hatcher - East	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0		
2507	Mike Cervi	26	0	26	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0		
2508	James W. Hurt	6,344	0	6,344	708	0	708	596	596	0	-112	596	0		
2509	John William Hatcher	320	0	320	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0		
2510	Lauro Guadramana	320	0	320	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	24	0		
2511	Joe Hervol	160	0	160	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0		
2512	Mrs. Claude S. Irwin	160	0	160	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	24	0		
2513	William Jarvis - North (Spear 7 Ranch)	1,280	0	1,280	84	0	84	84	84	0	0	84	0		
2514	G.A. Jones	160	0	160	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	24	0		
2515	Kretek Corporation	140	0	140	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	24	0		
2516	Jesse Mauer	560	0	560	96	0	96	96	96	0	0	96	0		
2517	J.L. McCauley Estate	1,280	0	1,280	288	0	288	288	288	0	0	288	0		
2519	Edward Nunn, Jr.	4,319	0	4,319	528	0	528	528	528	0	0	528	0		
2520	Tommy W. Perez	2,907	0	2,907	528	0	528	528	528	0	0	528	0		
2522	Tony Salopek	310	0	310	48	0	48	48	48	0	0	48	0		
2523	Frank Snyder	534	0	534	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0		

APPENDIX F-1 (continued)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Acres Public Land	Acres Other Ownership	Total Allotment Acreage	Present Allocations (AUMs)				5-Year Average Licensed Use	Proposed Forage Allocations (Federal AUMs)			Changes from Preference (AUMs)	Projected Goal by Year 2010 (Federal AUMs)		
					Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	Big Game (Federal)	Preference (Federal)	Livestock		Big Game	Preference	Livestock		Big Game		
Luna County (continued)																
2524	Bill Speir	3,205	0	3,205	612	0	612	612	612	0	0	0	612	0		
2525	Ronald E. Gibson (Tom Miller)	760	0	760	120	0	120	120	120	0	0	0	120	0		
2526	G. Voss Yates	1,690	0	1,690	336	0	336	336	336	0	0	0	336	0		
2529	POL (Lawrence Herrmann)	40	0	40	12	0	12	11	11	0	-1	0	11	0		
2530	R. Baker and T. Turner	1,280	0	1,280	324	0	324	324	324	0	0	0	324	0		
2531	Lee Baker (East)	630	0	630	84	0	84	84	84	0	0	0	84	0		
2534	James L. Foster	183	0	183	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	0	12	0		
2538	Border Ranch (Thousand Springs)	1,668	0	1,668	156	0	156	156	156	0	0	0	156	0		
**2541	Danny Wiles	320	0	320	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	0	24	0		
4525	Genevieve Guter	3,760	0	3,760	912	0	912	924	924	0	+12	0	924	0		
TOTAL - LUNA COUNTY		569,946	194,721	764,667	124,107	1,075	89,840	73,533	73,533	248	-16,307	85,962	381			
Grant County																
1004	C. and R. Anderson	3,880	3,920	7,800	1,260	12	660	700	700	0	+40	549	0			
1007	Langford Keith	10,159	8,775	18,934	6,000	48	3,372	3,234	3,234	0	-138	2,843	0			
4501 ^{2/}	Langford Keith	615	0	615	204	0	204	118	118	0	-86	92	0			
*1011	L.A. Conner	1,920	1,903	3,823	924	0	480	407	407	1	-73	180	2			
1022	John S. Hamilton (Flying A Cattle Co.)	3,200	0	3,200	636	0	636	636	636	15	0	487	24			
1513	John S. Hamilton (Flying A Cattle Co.)	440	0	440	84	0	84	84	84	0	0	0	0			
1023	Grant Harper	3,014	1,079	4,093	720	12	468	468	468	0	0	304	0			
1036	Steeple Rock (Garth Lunt)	2,495	1,405	3,900	948	12	552	401	401	0	-151	570	0			
1039	High Lonesome Ranch (Langford Keith)	9,905	7,644	17,549	3,466	36	1,846	1,791	1,791	0	-55	1,676	0			
1045	Registered Pasture (Gerald Lyda, Sr.)	1,000	0	1,000	288	0	288	252 ^{2/}	252	0	-36	281	0			
1046	Brock Place (Gerald Lyda, Sr.)	4,710	5,860	10,570	2,400	0	1,056	818 ^{2/}	818	0	-238	1,245	0			
1047	Tom McGauley and Sons	15,095	9,100	24,195	4,301	0	4,092	3,456 ^{2/}	3,456	0	-636	4,210	0			
1049	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Ralph Wright)	232	1,949	2,181	336	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0			
1051	Redrock (Pacific Western)	4,305	0	4,305	720	0	720	684	684	0	-36	682	0			
1075	Redrock (Fred Little)	915	1,475	2,390	600	0	180	180	180	0	0	180	0			
*2010	Oan-P-Mel Land Inc.	7,795	5,614	13,409	1,548	0	676	639	639	0	-237	549	0			
*2011	Andy Peterson (Glen Donaldson)	13,353	4,885	18,238	2,556	24	1,788	1,632	1,632	3	-156	1,814	5			
2023	Hachita Division (Pacific Western)	118,079	202,475	320,554	47,004	0	16,380	12,625	12,625	24	-3,755	15,570	61			
2044	J.M. and Virgie T. Smith	16,513	3,630	20,143	3,624	60	3,012	3,008	3,008	57	-4	2,535	180			
2050	Nadine E. Moore	1,880	0	1,880	264	0	264	235	235	0	-29	235	0			
1550	Muir Ranch East (John T. Muir Ranch)	2,360	0	2,360	408	0	408	408	408	0	0	408	0			
2504	Cerro Mesa Ranch	4,267	0	4,267	1,056	0	1,056	1,056	1,056	0	0	1,056	0			
2521	Richardson et al.	92	0	92	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0			
4502	John Wallace	2,490	0	2,490	984	0	984	924	924	0	-60	924	0			
4503	Ruby Wallace Bell	3,110	0	3,110	1,140	0	1,140	1,140	1,140	0	0	1,140	0			
4504	Bell and Stalley	1,684	0	1,684	504	0	504	504	504	0	0	504	0			
4505	Hatcher - West	375	0	375	48	0	48	48	48	0	0	48	0			
4506	Joseph Bennett	3,689	0	3,689	1,332	0	1,332	1,332	1,332	0	0	1,332	0			
4507	Lewis Brown	40	40	80	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0			
4509	Kera and Ann Chester	270	0	270	48	0	48	48	48	0	0	48	0			
4510	Crumbley Brothers	40	0	40	8	0	8	12	12	0	+4	12	0			
4511	De La O Estate	160	0	160	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0			
4512	Homer Delancy	240	0	240	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0			
4513	Joe and Jimmy Delk	2,063	0	2,063	348	0	348	348	348	0	0	348	0			
4514	Forrest Delk	4,525	0	4,525	888	0	888	888	888	0	0	888	0			
4515	Robert O. Upton	165	0	165	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0			
4516	Wayne Dickerson	2,790	0	2,790	1,020	0	1,020	1,020	1,020	0	0	1,020	0			
4517	Quik and Eby Ranch	3,560	0	3,560	1,068	0	1,068	1,068	1,068	0	0	1,068	0			
4518	Jennie J. McDonald	464	0	464	168	0	168	168	168	0	0	168	0			
4519	Whiskey Creek (Richard Fahrlander)	550	0	550	120	0	120	120 ^{2/}	120	0	0	120	0			
4520	Madelaine M. Foster	200	0	200	60	0	60	60	60	0	0	60	0			
4521	Poy Partnership	531	0	531	132	0	132	132	132	0	0	132	0			
4522	Franks Ranch Inc.	5,002	0	5,002	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0	1,500	0			
4523	Harlie M. Frost	2,400	0	2,400	708	0	708	708	708	0	0	708	0			
4524	Marvin Glenn	160	0	160	48	0	48	48	48	0	0	48	0			

APPENDIX F-1 (concluded)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Acres Public Land	Acres Other Ownership	Total Allotment Acreage	Present Allocations (AUMs)				5-Year Average Licensed Use	Proposed Forage Allocations (Federal AUMs)			Projected Goal by Year 2010 (Federal AUMs)	
					Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	81g Game (Federal)	Preference (Federal)	Livestock		81g Game	Changes from Preference (AUMs)	Livestock	81g Game	
Grant County (continued)														
4526	T. Harrington Estate	600	0	600	120	0	120	120	120	0	0	120	0	
4527	W.B. Hinton	760	0	760	180	0	180	180	180	0	0	180	0	
4528	Mrs. Joe H. Hooker	3,620	0	3,620	780	0	780	780	780	0	0	780	0	
4529	Pitchfork Ranch	3,597	0	3,597	1,104	0	1,104	1,104	1,104	0	0	1,104	0	
4530	Jarrell-Miller (John T. Muir Ranch)	15,306	0	15,306	2,460	0	2,460	2,460	2,460	0	0	2,460	0	
4531	Paul Childress	174	0	174	36	0	36	36	36	0	0	36	0	
4532	Harry McCauley	104	0	104	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	24	0	
4533	Marie Brock McCauley	2,080	0	2,080	720	0	720	720	720	0	0	720	0	
4534	R.J. McCauley	120	0	120	36	0	36	36	36	0	0	36	0	
4535	E.W. Richardson	405	0	405	120	0	120	120	120	0	0	120	0	
4536	T. Carroll Niblett	377	0	377	72	0	72	72	72	0	0	72	0	
4537	Pacific Western	3,860	0	3,860	1,008	0	1,008	1,008	1,008	0	0	1,008	0	
4538	Three Sisters (Prevost Cattle Co.)	80	0	80	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0	
4539	Rolland Rice and Son	640	0	640	156	0	156	156	156	0	0	156	0	
4540	Oella W. Richardson	2,760	0	2,760	480	0	480	480	480	0	0	480	0	
4541	Spires Cattle Co.	2,103	0	2,103	648	0	648	648	648	0	0	648	0	
4542	T & M Dairy Inc.	63	0	63	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0	
4543	Todd and Pugmire	716	0	716	132	0	132	132	132	0	0	132	0	
4544	James B. Turner	49	0	49	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0	
4545	Warren et al.	160	0	160	24	0	24	24	24	0	0	24	0	
4546	Wesley Brown	594	0	594	156	0	156	156	156	0	0	156	0	
4547	Patricia S. Crumley (Eby Ranch)	4,634	0	4,634	1,248	0	1,248	1,224	1,224	-24	0	1,224	0	
4548	Norris James E., Ray A.	1,520	0	1,520	528	0	528	528	528	0	0	528	0	
4549	Nadine E. Moore	5,670	0	5,670	960	0	960	960	960	0	0	960	0	
4550	Donald Hooker et al.	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0	
4551	Clint Johnson, Jr.	46	0	46	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0	
4552	Charles Judd	80	0	80	24	0	24	23	23	0	-1	23	0	
4553	Genevieve Gunter	40	0	40	12	0	12	12	12	0	0	12	0	
TOTAL - GRANT COUNTY		310,930	259,714	570,644	100,763	204	59,898	54,227	54,227	100	-5,671	57,428	272	

Summary

County	Acres Public Land	Acres Other Ownership	Total Allotment Acreage	Present Allocations (AUMs)				5-Year Average Licensed Use	Proposed Forage Allocations (Federal AUMs)		Changes from Preference (AUMs)	Projected Goal by Year 2010 (Federal AUMs)	
				Total AUMs (Private, State, Federal)	81g Game (Federal)	Preference (Federal)			Livestock	81g Game		Livestock	81g Game
HIDALGO	743,214	460,986	1,204,200	192,381	875	114,192		100,440	100,440	1,569	-13,752	114,012	2,845
LUNA	569,946	194,721	764,667	124,107	1,075	89,840		73,533	73,533	248	-16,307	85,962	381
GRANT	310,930	259,714	570,644	100,763	204	59,898		54,227	54,227	100	-5,671	57,428	272
TOTALS FOR 3-COUNTY AREA		1,624,090	915,421	2,539,511	417,251	2,154	263,930	228,200	228,200	1,917	-35,730	257,402	3,498
UNALLOTTED FOR 3-COUNTY AREA		7,663	0	7,663	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		1,631,753	915,421	2,547,174	417,251	2,154	263,930	228,200	228,200	1,917	-35,730	257,402	3,498

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office files, 1982.

Notes: *Indicates allotments with Allotment Management Plans.

**Split with Allotment 2506.

a/figured on 4-year average.

b/figured on 3-year average.

c/figured on 2-year average.

d/figured on 1-year average.

g/Part of this allotment is contained within Allotment 1007.

APPENDIX F-6 (concluded)

CATEGORIZATION AND PRESENT ACRES
IN EACH ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS BY ALLOTMENT^{a/}

Allotment Number	Public Land Acres	Ecological Condition Class (acres)				Waste Acres
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
<u>Category C (continued)</u>						
<u>Luna County</u>						
2003 _{b/}	10,468		0	1,825	8,643	
2007 _{b/}	2,940		0	0	2,940	
2008 _{b/}	4,631		0	72	4,559	
2028 _{b/}	1,766		0	246	1,520	
2041 _{b/}	6,912		0	77	6,835	
2047	838		51	0	787	
2048	457		0	0	457	
2053(3016)	2,944		0	0	2,944	
Subtotal	30,956		51	2,220	28,685	
<u>Grant County</u>						
1049	193		0	0	193	
1075	1,098		0	326	772	
Subtotal	1,291		0	326	965	
3-COUNTY						
CATEGORY C						
TOTAL	68,366		438	11,719	48,956	7,253

Source: BLM Las Cruces District Office files, 1982.

Notes: *Indicates allotments with Allotment Management Plans.

^{a/}The vegetation inventory was conducted from October 1981 to January 1982. Allotments not listed were not transected and have no ecological condition information. These allotments are in Category M. Acres used were calculated through the digitizing system and will not match case file acres (see Appendix B-2 for methodology on digitizing and Appendix B-4 for methodology on ecological condition).

^{b/}Indicates allotments in more than one category.

^{c/}Allotments controlled by the same permittee and run as one grazing unit.

^{d/}Part of Allotment 4501 is included within Allotment 1007.

SOURCE: MMS and BLM Las Cruces District Files 1982

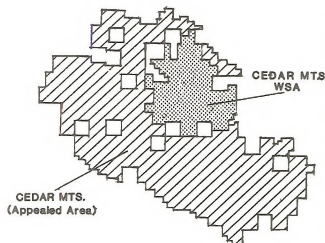
OVERLAY 2

EXISTING SITUATION FOR ENERGY MINERALS LEASING

BERTOGLIO/MERRILL
ECOLOGICAL PLOT



NCILLO MT.
ITAT MGMT. AREA



ONCILLO

COWBOY SPRINGS
WSA

BIGHORN
SHEEP HABITAT

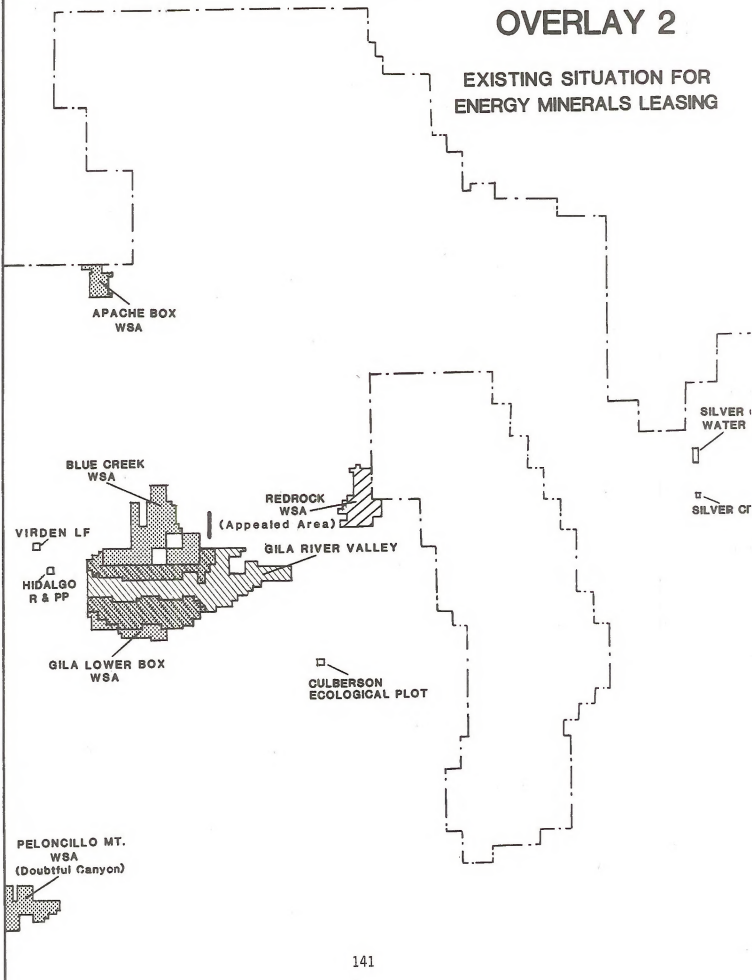
BIG HATCHET MTS.
WSA

ALAMO HUECO MTS.
WSA

BIGHORN
SHEEP HABITAT

OVERLAY 2

EXISTING SITUATION FOR ENERGY MINERALS LEASING



OVERLAY 3

PROPOSED SITUATION FOR ENERGY MINERALS LEASING

CHIHUAHUA CHUB
CRITICAL HABITAT



A small rectangular area containing two plus signs, representing the Chihuahua Chub Critical Habitat.

COOKE'S RANGE
RAPTOR NESTING



A cluster of plus signs representing the Cooke's Range Raptor Nesting area.

OLD TOWN



A small square symbol representing Old Town.

HADLEY DRAW
RIPARIAN HABITAT



A small rectangular area containing two plus signs, representing the Hadley Draw Riparian Habitat.

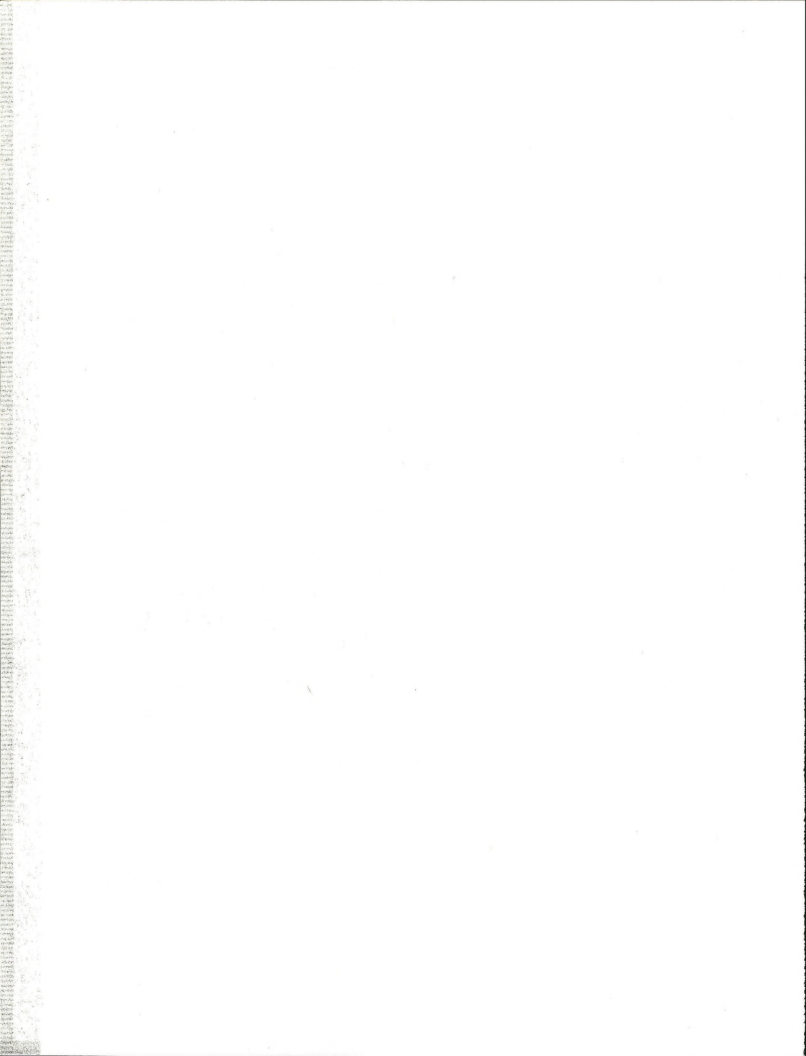
BUTTERFIELD TRAIL



A winding line representing the Butterfield Trail, with several lines radiating from it towards the other labels.

ADDITIONS TO THE DRAFT MFP AMENDMENT / EIS

APPENDICES



APPENDIX A
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
FOR RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

APPENDIX A-1

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, NEW MEXICO RANGELAND CONSULTATION, COOPERATION, AND COORDINATION POLICY SECTION 8, PUBLIC RANGELANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT (P.L. 95-514)

Purpose. Section 8 of PL-95-514 specifically requires consultation, cooperation, and coordination with lessees, permittees and landowners, the District Grazing Advisory Boards, and State agencies involved in the development, revision or evaluation of allotment management plans (hereinafter referred to as Cooperative Management Plans [CMPs]). It is the intent of the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico, to expand the concept of consultation, cooperation, and coordination (hereinafter referred to as consultation) into all phases of the grazing program which includes programs and policies and the execution of such programs and policies which affect grazing.

Introduction. The procedures apply specifically to the target group (see Appendix I) but also may apply to other affected interests. These procedures consist of seven phases and are intended to ensure compliance with Section 8 of PL-95-514. These phases are:

- I. Preplanning and Allotment Categorization.
- II. Inventory and Inventory-Related Studies.
- III. Resource Management Plan (RMP), Management Framework Plan (MFP) Amendment (Grazing), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Development.
- IV. Rangeland Program Summary and Updates.
- V. Livestock Adjustments, Grazing Programs, Cooperative Management Plans, Revisions, or Evaluations.
- VI. Rangeland Monitoring.
- VII. Documentation.

Phase I

Preplanning

- A. The District or Area Manager will notify grazing permittees by letter concerning the consultation process and listing membership of the target group.
- B. The District Manager or his representative will contact the target group at the beginning of the preplanning analysis to request their input into the identification of issues.

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

- C. In coordination with the target group, the District will initiate allotment analysis and will develop standard and site-specific criteria for allotment categories (M) maintain, (I) improve, and (C) custodial and will make initial categorization of each allotment. Review and comment will be requested of the target group in the development of category criteria and again after the initial categorization of allotments.
- D. The District Manager or his representative shall meet with the target group and on a one-to-one basis with each owner-operator, then with groups of owner-operators to insure that their ideas and concerns are considered.
- E. Following steps A, B, and C, all affected parties will be provided a summary of issues for their review and comment before finalization. A final revision of the issues will be mailed to each party.

Phase II

Inventory and Inventory-Related Studies

- A. The District Manager or his representative will notify the target group of the inventories and inventory-related studies to be conducted, including the proposed timeframe for conducting the inventories or studies.
- B. Prior to the initiation of each inventory or inventory-related study, the target group will be notified of the inventories and inventory-related studies and their participation will be requested.
- C. All inventory and/or study teams shall coordinate a date and time with the permittee and shall stop at the ranch headquarters on the first day of the inventory or study on an allotment. If the allottee is absent, a note will be left indicating the work being done and the locations of each crew.

Phase III

Resource Management Plan (RMP), Management Framework Plan (MFP) Amendment (Grazing), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Development

- A. Consultation with the target group, along with interested publics, is required under the Land Use Planning Process (see 43 CFR 1610.3) and will be carried out as stated in 43 CFR 1610.2, public participation.
- B. The District Manager or his representative shall contact the target group to request their involvement during the allotment analysis process (I.B. and II.C.). The results of the various inventories and studies, i.e., forage availability, range condition, forage production, prior weather effects, utilization, wildlife habitat

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

needs, socioeconomic needs, watershed needs, final allotment categorization, etc., will be discussed with these participants during this contact. The Allotment Analysis Review will include discussion on the need for CMP vs. no CMP, design of the grazing program, locations of range improvements, land treatment potential, etc.

Phase IV

Rangeland Program Summary and Updates

A Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) will be targeted for release within 5 months following release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The District Manager or his representative shall make contact with the target group within 3 months to review the Draft RPS. (See Enclosure 1-1 and 1-2 for the outline of a typical RPS.) The thrust of this phase will be to seek mutual agreement on the RPS. In the event of disagreements, further consultation may be necessary with the District Advisory Council. It is essential that this phase be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual trust, since all subsequent range-related actions will hinge on this document. After completion, periodic (annual) updates of the RPS's will be issued. (See Enclosure 1-1 and 1-2.)

Phase V

Livestock Adjustments, Grazing Programs, Cooperative Management Plans, Revisions or Evaluations

- A. Allottees may request the participation of the target group with BLM in the development, revision, or evaluation of a CMP or other livestock management consideration. (See Appendix II for a sample notice to allottees regarding livestock adjustments.)
- B. Individual allottees and the State Land Commissioner, where State lands are involved, will be contacted prior to consultations concerning the adjustment of grazing use. It is not the intent of BLM to contact all members of the target group prior to the actions discussed in this phase, but rather to request their assistance in the resolution of differences between allottees and BLM.
- C. A copy of all proposed decisions involving State land will be provided to the State Land Commissioner and any of the target group who has expressed an interest in a particular allotment or geographic area. In those situations where BLM has issued proposed decisions and protests have been filed, and the allotment includes State land, the State Land Office and any of the target group who has expressed an interest in a particular allotment or geographic area will be advised and will be invited to participate fully in all meetings and/or actions pertinent to the proposed decision and subsequent protest.

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

- D. In the course of consultation between the target group and BLM regarding initial stocking rates following a Grazing Environmental Impact Statement, if an agreed-upon stocking rate cannot be reached, and after the issuance of a proposed decision and the filing of a protest by the allottee, the target group will be asked to again review the allotment to assist in arriving at an acceptable stocking rate.

Phase VI

Rangeland Monitoring

The target group will be convened to inform them of the intent and procedure to be used in establishing monitoring studies and their participation will be requested. The contact procedure identified in II.B. and C. will also be used to inform allottees of study establishment methods, schedules, analysis, and evaluations. (See Appendix II for a sample notice to grazing allottees regarding monitoring studies.)

Phase VII

Documentation

- A. Documentation of all contacts, whether by mail, in person, by telephone, etc., is mandatory. Documentation shall be kept in chronological order and properly filed by allotment if allotment specific or in a general file if not allotment specific.
- B. During inventories or studies, the Area Manager will document pertinent information, such as who worked where, hours spent on quality control with each team, contact with the public, contact with the allottee or authorized representative, etc.
- C. All documentation is available at the District or Area Office for review. Summaries of study data will be made available upon request. Detailed inventory or study data will be available for review in District or Resource Area Offices.
- D. Prior to the preplanning phase, the District Manager shall contact the target group and ask them if they wish to be notified of actions by certified mail rather than regular mail. Parties that do not respond will receive all correspondence by regular mail.

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

Outline for Rangeland Program Summary

I. Introduction

Describe the context for the decision including the legal background for the grazing EIS's, a history of grazing in the Environmental Impact Statement area, and the existing situation.

II. The Program

The Rangeland Program Summary shall summarize the land use planning objectives for all rangeland uses and shall set forth those decisions that affect livestock grazing, including for each allotment the proposed rangeland improvements and the environmental costs and benefits of the program.

The document shall also contain a proposed schedule for the issuance of decisions and describe the procedures and time available for all affected interests to express their views or take action on decisions.

The document will describe the supplemental inventories and studies necessary to reach site-specific decisions in the improve category (I) where existing information is inadequate or lacking.

III. Public Involvement

Describe the involvement from groups, individuals, and Government agencies at all levels during land use planning, preparation of the EIS, and the decision process.

IV. Action Plan

- A. Administrative Actions. Describe the administrative process, including the steps and schedule for implementing the decision, i.e., grazing permits.
- B. Range Improvements. Describe the number, type, and schedule for range improvement projects.
- C. Related Actions. Describe the number, type, and schedule for actions such as wildlife habitat developments, watershed improvements, etc., that are related to the grazing decision and will be taken concurrently with it. This is an expansion of material described in II.A.
- D. Grazing Use Adjustments. Describe the increases, decreases, and unchanged situations. Clearly state the schedule for adjustments and, where data is adequate, describe any actions that will be taken to reduce the economic impact on ranchers scheduled for reductions.

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

- E. Appropriations. Development of range improvement facilities and grazing management programs will be based on current appropriations.
- F. Monitoring. Describe the specific evaluation studies and research actions that will be taken to monitor resource conditions resulting from the program decisions.

Summary Updates

I. Initial Document

This document summarizes actions proposed to achieve the land use objectives and to implement the land use planning decisions and describes the monitoring program for the area.

II. Subsequent Updates

This document shall summarize, by allotment, the progress toward achieving planning objectives, the numbers of decision issued, number of decisions to be issued, and progress in the monitoring and rangeland improvement programs. Identify any deviations from the grazing program, as set forth in the summary document, and reasons for the deviation.

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

APPENDIX I

TARGET GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

1. Grazing Lessees or Permittees
2. State Land Commissioner
P. O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, NM 87503
3. New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural Programs and Resources
P. O. Box 5702
Las Cruces, NM 88003
4. Range Improvement Task Force
NMSU Box 3 AE
Las Cruces, NM 88003
5. All members of local grazing advisory boards.
6. All other land owners within each specific allotment.
- *7. Federal land managing agencies affected by or affecting grazing management on BLM allotments.

*The target group for each allotment will not, in most cases, consist of all the target group representatives listed in Appendix I. If, for example, there is not State land in an allotment, it is not necessary to contact the State Land Commissioner.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DISTRICT OFFICE

P. O. Box 1420

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

NOTICE TO BLM GRAZING PERMITTEES

The New Mexico Bureau of Land Management Rangeland Consultation policy is designed to compliment the Congressional intent set forth in Public Law 95-514. This policy requires consultation, cooperation, and coordination with an identified Target Group composed of lessees, permittees and landowners, the District Grazing Advisory Board, and State agencies. This includes the planning, development, and evaluation of the grazing programs on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

A Range Conservationist from the Las Cruces District has been or will be initiating monitoring studies and talking with you with regard to future livestock grazing use. Any adjustments will be in accordance with the decisions that were reached after considering the alternatives described in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area MFP Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement and outlined in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Rangeland Program Summary.

If you wish, you may have someone from the Target Group present during the consultation meetings. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture has been designated to represent the Governor's Office and is available at your request to participate in the process. Depending on their workload at the time, other agencies may also be available. Please feel free to contact any of the individuals or agencies listed below. If needed, they will make an effort to be in attendance at future meetings.

Mr. Ronald J. White, Director
Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural
Programs and Resources
Box 5702
Las Cruces, NM 88003
Telephone: (505) 646-2642

Commissioner of Public Lands
State of New Mexico
Attention: Mr. Dwain Glidewell
Box 1148
Santa Fe, NM 87503
Telephone: (505) 827-5731

Range Improvement Task Force
Cooperative Extension Service
Attention: Dr. Jerry Schickedanz
Box 3AE, NMSU
Las Cruces, NM 88003
Telephone: (505) 646-2218

Mr. Ed Baca
New Mexico State Land Office
Las Cruces Representative
Telephone: (505) 523-7021

Grazing Advisory Board Members in Grant, Luna, and Hidalgo Counties.

Other appropriate agencies or affected interests.

If you have any questions, please contact the Area Manager at (505) 523-5571 or the District Manager at (505) 524-8551, or write to P. O. Box 1420, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88004.

Daniel C. B. Rathbun
District Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

April 22, 1983

Instruction Memorandum No. 83-485
Expires 9/30/84

To: AFO's (except Alaska and ESO)

From: Director

Subject: Policy and Procedures for Implementing Cooperative Management Agreements

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of Cooperative Management Agreements is to provide livestock operators (or associations) who have demonstrated good rangeland management practices with: (1) recognition of good stewardship; (2) a larger role in managing grazing on the public lands; and (3) the assurance of tenure needed to encourage private investment in rangeland improvements. By so doing, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be encouraging operators to maintain or initiate good grazing management practices, while also reducing Federal expenditures for improving and managing the public lands.

Cooperative Management Agreements:

A Cooperative Management Agreement is a formal, written agreement between the BLM and a livestock operator that recognizes the operator as the steward of an allotment. Through the agreement, the livestock operator agrees to graze livestock in a manner that will achieve the objectives for the allotment. These objectives may include improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, wild horse habitat, watershed conditions, recreation opportunities or any other authorized use or value of the public lands. Allotment objectives, as well as the operator's management flexibility, are defined by the agreement.

The agreement does not give the livestock operator the authority to regulate or exclude other uses of the public lands nor does it exempt him or her from laws and regulations governing public land use. Range improvements constructed by the operator must be approved by the BLM prior to construction to assure their consistency with management objectives.

Nomination and Selection:

To encourage broad local participation in this effort, the BLM will ask District Grazing Advisory Boards, Multiple Use Advisory Councils, Soil Conservation Districts, State and Federal Wildlife Agencies, Conservation Groups, and other public land interest groups to nominate operators for Cooperative Management Agreements. District Grazing Advisory Boards and Multiple Use Advisory Councils will be asked to review the nominations and to approve the agreements. Where an Advisory Board or Council does not exist, or if a authorized officer believes it

would enhance the objectivity of the selection process, another group may be asked to review the nominations. This group may be an existing Experimental Stewardship Program Area steering committee, a Coordinated Resource Management and Planning group, or an ad hoc group selected specifically for screening nominees for Cooperative Management Agreements.

Implementation:

Initially, Cooperative Management Agreements will be limited to operators who graze livestock in allotments that have satisfactory resource conditions and in which land-use objectives are being met. These allotments are those that have been recognized as "Maintain" allotments through the Final Grazing Management Policy process. Operators using "Maintain" allotments are eligible for the agreements when it is in the interest of sound land-use management and:

A. A final livestock grazing environmental impact statement has been completed and the associated land-use plan for the area has been approved. (Exceptions to this criterion may occur where allotments are known to be in good condition and without resource use conflicts.)

B. The present operator or association has operated on the allotment for sufficient time to have demonstrated good rangeland management practices and to be recognized by others as a responsible land steward.

C. Agreement can be reached between the BLM and the operator or association on the objectives, terms, and conditions of the Cooperative Management Agreement.

D. The District Grazing Advisory Board and Multiple-Use Advisory Council (where formed) recommends approval of the agreement with the operator or association.

E. The operator agrees to contribute toward the construction of range improvements. The BLM may provide total or partial funding for the improvements when their construction is within District priorities.

We expect that operators selected for Cooperative Management Agreements will frequently be operating under an allotment management plan or similar grazing management program. The agreement may incorporate the objectives of the existing plan or program, but will provide the operator with special recognition and an opportunity to exercise additional management skills.

Tenure:

Cooperative Management Agreements will have a tenure period of 10 years. The BLM and the operator will jointly evaluate the allotment at the end of the first 5 years to determine if objectives are being met.

Providing they are, a new cooperative agreement and 10-year grazing permit or lease will be issued. If objectives are not being met, the operator will be allowed time to make adjustments and meet the objectives before the agreement terminates.

If the operator is found to be violating the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Management Agreement, the Agreement may be cancelled. The authorized officer may also take appropriate actions under provisions of the grazing regulations concerning permits and leases.

Transfers of Agreements:

Generally, Cooperative Management Agreements cannot be transferred and will automatically terminate with the transfer of base property. Exceptions may occur with the death of the livestock operator or with a less than 100 percent change in the ownership of the operator's corporation or partnership.

Future Actions:

Using the experience gained through initial implementation, we plan to expand Cooperative Management Agreements to include operators grazing livestock in allotments in the "Custodial" or "Improve" categories. We propose that these operators be required to meet criteria A, C, and E listed previously, as well as the following:

A. The BLM has approved a grazing plan proposed by the operator to achieve allotment objectives.

B. The District Grazing Advisory Board and the District Multiple Use Council have reviewed the plan and recommend that the BLM enter into the agreement.

A sample Cooperative Management Agreement is enclosed for your use. Although this agreement contains the standard terms and conditions that apply in all cases, authorized officers may add other terms and conditions as appropriate. We look forward to improving the Cooperative Management Agreement as we gain experience in its use. Your suggestions and comments, including those related to the eventual inclusion of operators using "Improve" or "Custodial" allotments, should be sent to the Director (220).



1 Enclosure

Encl. 1 - Cooperative Management Agreement (2 p)

APPENDIX A-2 (continued)

FOR "MAINTAIN" ALLOTMENTS ONLY

Cooperative Management Agreement

_____, holding a grazing authorization in the Bureau of Land Management's _____ Administrative District, and hereafter shown as the operator, and the Bureau of Land Management, hereafter shown as the BLM, enter into this agreement for cooperative management of the _____ allotment.

The BLM has determined that resource conditions in the allotment are satisfactory and there are no serious conflicts with other resource users. The agreement provides for management of livestock grazing on the allotment by the operator as he/she determines appropriate, within the following limits on livestock use:

The operator recognizes, however, that this agreement does not provide any authority to regulate or exclude other users of the public lands, nor does it exempt him/her from any laws or regulations pertaining to use of the public lands. The following multiple-use objectives, developed through the BLM's land-use planning process, must continue to be met:

The operator agrees to provide the BLM with a actual grazing use report on the kind and number of livestock grazed and the periods of grazing use within 15 days after the grazing season. The BLM will provide the operator with an after-the-fact billing for actual grazing use based upon the actual grazing use report provided at the end of the grazing season.

The operator agrees to contribute toward new range improvements that he/she determines are needed and to maintain these and existing improvements in usable condition. The operator will secure a Range Improvement Permit or a Cooperative Agreement as appropriate for Range Improvements prior to construction. The operator recognizes that the BLM is not obligated to authorize improvements that will not meet multiple-use objectives. The BLM may provide total or partial funding for an improvement if its implementation is within District priorities.

This Cooperative Management Agreement shall be in effect for 10 years. The BLM and the operator agree to conduct jointly the following

Encl. 1-1

APPENDIX A-2 (concluded)

CMA-2

monitoring studies in the allotment to provide data for a midterm allotment evaluation:

If the evaluation shows that satisfactory progress is being made toward meeting the objectives, the BLM will issue a new 10-year agreement. If the allotment evaluation shows that the range condition is not being maintained, or the objectives are not being met, the BLM and operator may adjust the terms and conditions of this agreement. If mutual agreement cannot be reached on such adjustments, or it would not be in the best interest of sound land management, the BLM may not issue a new agreement when the first agreement terminates.

The BLM agrees to renew the operator's permit or lease upon its expiration, provided that: (1) the present resource condition of the allotment is maintained or improved; and (2) the objectives listed in this agreement continue to be met. If an operator is found to be violating the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Management Agreement, the Agreement may be cancelled. The District Manager also may take appropriate actions under provisions of the regulations concerning permits and leases.

This agreement is transferable by operation of law arising from the death of the livestock operator. Upon notice to the authorized officer, this agreement is also transferable as an incident of any less than 100 percent change in the ownership of the livestock operator's corporation or partnership. All other transfers are prohibited and will result in automatic termination of this agreement.

Recommended by:

Chairman, _____
District Grazing Advisory Board

and

Chairman, _____
Multiple-Use Council

Agreed To:

Agreed to:

BLM Authorized Officer

Operator



APPENDIX D
WILDLIFE





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
P.O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico
88004

MAR 17 1983

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM

From: District Manager, BLM, Las Cruces, NM

Subject: Formal Consultation on the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (MFP Amendment/EIS)

On June 2, 1982, the BLM requested a formal listing of species proposed or listed as threatened or endangered and potentially occurring within the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area (which includes Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties). A reply was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on July 30, 1982. On January 12, 1983, Linda Seibert of our office spoke with Jim Johnson about the absence of the spikedace and loach minnow from the list. He explained that they had been overlooked on the first list and indicated there may be some other changes, so a new list would be compiled by USFWS. On January 25, 1983, we received a second list. The biological assessment is based on this list.

A number of the listed, proposed and candidate species were determined to be unaffected by the Proposed Action and alternatives. These include the New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake (Crotalus willardi obscurus) and its critical habitat, whooping crane (Grus americana), bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), aster (Aster blepharophyllus), spider flower (Cleome multicaulis), rock daisy (Perityle cernua), beardtongue (Penstemon alamosensis), desert rose (Rosa stellata), grama grass cactus (Pediocactus papyracanthus), and figwort (Scrophularia macrantha).

The peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), loach minnow (Tiaroga cobitis), spikedace (Meda fulgida), Chihuahuan chub (Gila nigrescens), spotted bat (Euderma maculatum), Sneed's pincushion cactus (Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii), night blooming cereus (Cereus greggii), Organ Mountain primrose (Oenothera organensis), Mexican rosewood (Vauquelinia pauciflora), and club cholla (Opuntia arenaria) all may be affected as discussed in the biological assessment.

Formal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is requested for the listed species for which a "may affect" determination

has been made. A copy of the MFP Amendment/EIS is enclosed for your information. If you require additional information, contact Linda Seibert at 523-5571.

~~active~~ *Marvin M. James*

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - Biological Assessment
- 2 - Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFP Amendment/EIS



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Supervisor
Ecological Services, USFWS Cons. #2-22-83-F-062
Post Office Box 4487
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196

July 7, 1983

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces,
New Mexico

From: Acting Field Supervisor, FWS, Ecological Services,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Subject: Formal Section 7 Consultation for the Draft Las Cruces/
Lordsburg Management Framework Plan Amendment/
Environmental Impact Statement

This is in response to your March 17, 1983 request for formal Section 7 consultation, as provided by the Endangered Species Act, on the Draft Las Cruces/Lordsburg Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (MFP/EIS). The proposed MFP Amendment deals with the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area, which is administered by the Las Cruces District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This resource area includes lands in Dona Ana, Luna, Grant and Hidalgo counties, New Mexico.

On June 2, 1982, BLM requested a list of species proposed or listed as threatened or endangered which may occur within BLM's Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provided a list on July 30, 1982. In response to a telephone conversation between Linda Siebert (BLM) and Jim Johnson (FWS), FWS provided a second list to BLM on January 25, 1983. Based on this list, BLM prepared a biological assessment, dated March 17, 1983, which was received by FWS on March 21. On June 20, 1983, by mutual agreement of BLM and FWS, the deadline for completion of our biological opinion was extended until June 30, 1983. On June 30, another extension was requested and granted for completion of this biological opinion on or before July 8, 1983.

The following background information and biological opinion are based on information obtained from BLM, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), FWS files, and persons familiar with endangered species and proposed energy minerals exploration and development. The proposed BLM action may affect two listed species, the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) and Sneed's pincushion cactus (Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii) and one proposed species, the Chihuahua chub (Gila nigrescens). This biological opinion does not address potential effects of the proposed action on candidate species.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Federal action under consultation is a proposal by BLM, Las Cruces District, to amend its Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFP/EIS. Under this proposal, up to 3.8 million acres of BLM subsurface mineral estate would be open to leasing for energy minerals exploration, development and production. The preferred alternative is the Proposed Action (PA). Under the PA, 3,132,031 acres would be open with no stipulations, 675,894 acres would be open with special stipulations, and 9,836 acres would not be open to leasing (NOL). The BLM anticipates that surface disturbing activities will occur on 32,639 acres in the long-term, most of which is associated with geophysical exploration activities.

The PA also would implement a range management program on 1.6 million acres of public land within the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area. Up to 264,244 animal unit months (AUM) of forage would be produced for livestock and 1,917 AUM for big game in the short-term, with 257,402 AUM of forage for livestock and 3,498 AUM for big game in the long-term. Proposed rangeland developments include construction of 25 dirt tanks, 67 miles of pipeline, 47 drinking troughs, drilling or equipping 11 wells, 1 cattleguard, 17 storage tanks, 68 erosion dikes, 55 miles of fence and 4 umbrella catchments. Chemical vegetation treatments would be implemented on 9,609 acres of mesquite and 42,279 acres of creosote.

The PA would designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) including the Gila River Lower Box Riparian ACEC, the Gila River Middle Box Wildlife ACEC and the Organ Mountains Scenic ACEC. Designation of the proposed ACECs would prohibit surface occupancy, locatable mineral entry and off-road vehicle use in these areas. In addition, riparian habitats within the Gila Lower Box ACEC would be protected by fencing to exclude livestock.

Alternatives to the PA include No Action (NA), Maximization of Energy Minerals Leasing and Livestock Forage Production (MAX), Enhancement of Other Resource Values (EORV), and Elimination of Livestock Grazing (ELG). Principal differences between these alternatives include the relative amounts of subsurface estate open with no stipulations, open with stipulations and NOL, as well as the designation of ACECs.

Leases for energy minerals exploration and development are issued under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Land of 1947, and Geothermal Steam Act of 1970. The Minerals Management Service, in consultation with BLM, must prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for each lease, before surface disturbing activities are permitted. There will be additional opportunity for compliance with provisions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act during each EA review.

The peregrine falcon was listed as endangered on October 13, 1970 (35 FR 16047). The *anatum* subspecies, formerly widespread throughout North America, now exists as a breeding bird only in disjunct populations including the southern Rocky Mountains. Prior to the wide application of DDT in the late 1940's and 1950's, it is estimated that more than 300 pairs nested in the conterminous United States. By 1970, as a result of pesticide contamination, the peregrine was extinct in the eastern U.S. and undergoing rapid declines throughout the rest of North America. Today, in the Rocky Mountains/Southwest region, less than 20 percent of the estimated historical (pre-DDT) breeding pairs exist.

The peregrine falcon occurs in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area as a migrant and perhaps remotely as a resident, although there are no known eyries on BLM-managed land in this resource area. These falcons may forage in suitable mountainous habitat throughout the resource area. Their preferred prey are bird species representative of forest and riparian communities.

There is little potential for direct impacts on falcons due to oil, gas and geothermal exploration and development, because optimum falcon habitat is generally unsuitable for such activities. However, indirect impacts could occur due to construction of access roads, creation of waste disposal ponds, inadvertent pollution of surface waters and consequent contamination of prey. In addition, increases in noise and human disturbance associated with these activities could affect the falcons by causing them to abandon preferred foraging areas or other essential habitat components. Some rangeland management measures, such as construction of livestock and wildlife watering tanks in the long-term could increase the numbers of migratory waterfowl or disperse them more widely throughout the resource area, a potential benefit for peregrines. Other rangeland management proposals are expected to increase bird species diversity in most habitat types, which could also benefit the falcons. Designation of the proposed ACECs would prohibit surface occupancy, mineral entry and off-road vehicle use in these areas and protect riparian habitats from impacts associated with over-grazing.

Sneed's pincushion cactus was listed as endangered on November 7, 1979 (44 FR 64734). Current distribution is restricted to limestone ledges in desert and grassland biomes on Bishop's Cap, Pyramid Peak and the Franklin Mountains, between 4,300 and 5,400 feet elevation, in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, and El Paso County, Texas. Reasons for its decline include over-collecting, highway construction and urban expansion.

Under the PA, habitat of this cactus could be affected by energy minerals exploration activities. Seismic or geophysical lines would be surveyed for endangered species, and measures taken to avoid destroying the cacti; however, some plants may be overlooked and could be destroyed inadvertently. In addition, visible tracks may be left by the heavy equipment used in seismic exploration, and these tracks could encourage public use of previously undisturbed areas, aggravating illegal collecting of the cacti. The PA would place a stipulation on energy minerals exploration and development in the South Franklin Mountains for the protection of threatened and endangered species. This stipulation

would prohibit surface occupancy or other use of this area "unless the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential to adequately explore for or develop oil or gas, the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operation plan, and the surface management agency finds the proposed surface occupancy or use does not compromise the decision upon which the restriction is based or adversely affect resources protected by the restriction." (Appendix E, Page E-10, Las Cruces/Lordsburg MFP Amendment/EIS)

This stipulation provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species in the applicable part of their range. The NA and MAX Alternatives would place no specific stipulations on exploration and development in the South Franklin Mountains, although clearance for endangered species would be required for any energy-related activities where Sneed's pincushion cactus may occur. The EORV Alternative would prohibit surface occupancy for energy minerals exploration and development in the South Franklin Mountains, which may benefit the species.

The Chihuahua chub was proposed for listing as threatened on December 15 1980 (45 FR 82474). This fish species is found only in the Guzman Basin of Mexico and New Mexico. Its present distribution within the United States is restricted to a three-mile reach of the Mimbres River and its tributary springs (between Allie and Sheppard canyons) above the town of Mimbres. Habitat requirements for this species include deep pools with heavy cover of undercut banks, debris piles or aquatic vegetation. The principal reason for the species' decline is habitat destruction, due to stream dewatering and channelization above the town of Mimbres. Further destruction or loss of habitat could jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

Leasing for geothermal energy exploration on 120 acres of BLM mineral estate described as Sec. 20, T.16S., R.11W.,: SW1/4NE1/4, W1/2SW1/4 could adversely affect the chub by reducing springwater flows and/or increasing water temperature. Because of its geographical isolation, this population is vulnerable to adverse modification of its habitat.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION

Based on this evaluation, it is my biological opinion that the Proposed Action to open 3.8 million acres of BLM subsurface estate to energy minerals leasing in southwestern New Mexico is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the peregrine falcon and Sneed's pincushion cactus.

Due to the extremely restricted distribution of the Chihuahua chub, however, any action which adversely modifies its habitat could have serious consequences for survival of the species. Therefore, in keeping with the provisions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service requests that a conference be held, involving BLM, FWS and NMDGF, to resolve potential conflicts between the proposed action and the habitat of the Chihuahua chub. We will call you to arrange a mutually acceptable time and place for such a conference.

If new species are listed which may be affected by this action or if the proposed action is modified in a manner not considered in this biological opinion, formal consultation should be reinitiated. Your consideration of threatened and endangered species is appreciated. Please contact this office if you have any questions about this biological opinion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Peterson".

John C. Peterson

cc:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, FWS, Office of Endangered Species, Washington, D.C.
Regional Director, FWS, AHR, SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Supervisor
Ecological Services, USFWS
Post Office Box 4487
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196

Cons.#2-22-F-83-062

July 19, 1983

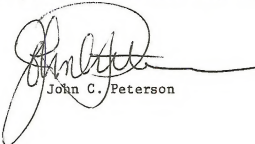
Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces,
New Mexico

From: Field Supervisor, FWS, Ecological Services, Albuquerque,
New Mexico

Subject: Amendment to Formal Section 7 Consultation for Las Cruces/
Lordsburg MFP Amendment/EIS

Our memorandum to you, dated July 7, 1983, is missing the last line on page 3. I have attached a revised copy of that page for inclusion in the memorandum. Also, the legal description of the 120-acre tract in the fourth paragraph on page 4 should read as follows: "Sec. 20, T.16S., R.11W.,: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$." Please make these changes in your copy of the document.



John C. Peterson

Enclosure

cc: (w/cy encl)
Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, FWS, Office of Endangered Species, Washington, D. C.
Regional Director, FWS, HR, SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

6840

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DISTRICT OFFICE

P. O. Box 1420

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Subject: Resolution of Potential Conflict Between the Proposed Action in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area Draft Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement and Chihuahua Chub Habitat

The Bureau of Land Management document named above discusses energy minerals leasing in four counties in southwestern New Mexico. Our agency requested a list of proposed or listed species which might be affected by this leasing or by other actions discussed in the document. We received two lists from your office, the first dated July 30, 1982, and a revised list dated January 25, 1983.

The revised list contained a proposed species, the Chihuahua chub, and its critical habitat. Because this species was not identified on the first list and because its critical habitat is entirely on private land, we had neglected to consider it in our document.

A later search of the Master Title Plat for the township in which the critical habitat is located showed 120 acres of land with Federal minerals (T. 16 S., R. 11 W., Section 20: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$). Since this area is prospectively valuable for energy minerals, the possibility exists that the 120 acres could be leased and developed for geothermal or oil and gas resources.

In our biological assessment, we concluded that leasing may affect the Chihuahua chub. Your office agreed in your biological opinion of July 7, 1983, and requested a conference involving our offices and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

Our staff discussed the resolution of this problem and concurred that we would make a change in the Final Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement to show these 120 acres Not Open to Leasing (NOL). On July 15, 1983, Linda Seibert (BLM) called Jerry Rome (USFWS) and asked him if this would resolve the conflict. He consulted other parties concerned and called us back to say that it would. Therefore, Table 1-2 will be amended in the final version of the document to show Proposed Critical Habitat for the Chihuahua chub (120 acres) NOL.

In addition, the Chihuahua chub will be added to Table 2-11, Federal and State Endangered Species with their Preferred Wildlife Habitat and the narrative on impacts of Energy Minerals Leasing will be amended with a discussion of the Chihuahua chub.

David C. B. Kettner

cc:
Director, Endangered Species Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87196

Harold Olson, Director
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Bureau of Land Management
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Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
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Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

BORROWER

SF 89.35 .N6 L67

Final management
plan amendment

DATE
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

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